

Board Report

HLAA-WA

April 2017

1. Communications – The communications committee has decided to expand and re-evaluate communication efforts. New websites are under development for both HLAA-WA and Loop Washington. A more-regular and longer e-newsletter is being sent, and the mailed newsletter will be reduced to just twice a year to better invest the resources previously given to it.

2. Advocacy

- a. SeaTac airport – Disability Rights Washington has joined the loop movement. They've asked to join the SeaTac Airport accessibility committee. Cheri will be attending these meetings as well to call for both captions and loops as SeaTac Airport remodels to become accessible in time for the 2018 Special Olympics.
- b. Senate Bills 5177 and 5179 both found success this year. SB 5177 (requiring long-term care workers receive training in recognizing hearing loss) passed both houses unanimously and awaits the governor's signature. SB 5179 (restoring adult Medicaid hearing aid coverage) awaits action in the House Appropriations Committee.

HLAA-WA worked closely on the writing for these bills and worked consistently to gain support from lawmakers and the community at every step.

Diana Thompson will provide a more complete report on policy and advocacy efforts.

3. Access

- a. Taproot has experienced problems with their loop; Cheri has been working with them to resolve this.
- b. A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) has implemented the Figaro MobiTxt captioning system. Several members have tried this seat-side tablet caption system. Watch for a Loop Washington blogpost with more details.

4. Outreach

- a. Transitions in Care Conference - HLAA-WA is supporting this by helping cover costs for one of the presenters on hearing loss. We've worked closely with Dr. Kelly Tremblay and the conference leaders to ensure hearing loss is part of the conversation.
 - i. Members can be more involved with this conference by helping publicize it via their social media, sending a representative to attend (like from a senior center), or attending and reporting back themselves.
- b. Better Hearing Month – Several events are planned to celebrate May as Better Hearing Month, including group outings and a press release encouraging people to step forward and take charge of their hearing.
- c. Like the Mic video – Watch for Kimberly Parker in an upcoming video called “Like the Mic” produced by Rooted in Rights/Disability Rights Washington. We hope to share this video at convention and other places.
- d. Chapter leader training – We provided training for other chapter leaders on March 4, 2017.

- e. Convention 2017 – Cheri and others are preparing their talk for the national convention in Salt Lake City June 22-27
- f. We're working more closely with Disability Rights Washington, AARP, and the Washington Senior Lobby.
- g. Appeal letters are being written for the May 10 GiveBIG campaign.