



*Celebrating 35 years for
48 million people with hearing loss*

Board Report part 3: June-August 2015

Cheri Perazzoli

August 2015

4 Culture Grants

The Seattle Rep, Tap Root Theatre and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Theatre were awarded grants to offset the expense of implementing loop technology in their theatres. 4 Culture, King County's Arts Foundation supports universal hearing access and encourages all King County Arts venues to seek funding. I attribute the success of these selected lucky theaters to the local grass roots advocacy efforts of our Seattle HLAA-WA cultural arts lovers! Thank you!

The grants will jumpstart the funding process; yet the grants cover less than 1/3 of the budget needed to complete the installations. The bulk of the funding and fundraising will come from the individual theaters. I encourage you all to support these theatres as they embrace their commitment to improving hearing accessibility for people like us!

New 20 Million in grants to go to Arts! Spread the word Fast – the September 9 Deadline is rapidly approaching! Do you have a favorite theatre or museum in King County? What about an old historic building? Since the recent installation of loops at Town Hall, 4 Culture's Jim Kelly has become an enthusiastic loop advocate himself. He's quoted in this KUOW story on the grants:

<http://kuow.org/post/kingdome-paid-king-county-opens-20-million-grants-arts>. Please email me cheripz@gmail with any questions.

National HLAA Advocacy Agenda

August 7, 2015 Action Alert: Your Voice Needed!

<http://hearingloss.org/content/hlaa-outraged-cdc-ignoring-ppl-hearing-loss>

1. The Centers for Disease has issued a study recent study, [Prevalence of Disability and Disability Type Among Adults, US, 2013](#), conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) examines vision loss, cognition, mobility, self-care and independent living. **Hearing loss is the third major public health issue after diabetes and heart disease, yet this study fails to make any mention about hearing loss, or even explain why the study failed to examine the prevalence of hearing loss.**

HLAA will not sit quietly by while CDC relegates hearing loss to an invisible disability. We are taking action, contacting both the White House and the CDC to ensure that they rectify this huge error. [See our letter to the White House](#). [See our news release](#). You can take action too! Contact: Maria Town, White House Office of Public Engagement, Maria_M_Town@who.eop.gov



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Action Alerts: Legislative

2. HLAA Supports the Hear ACT

June 9, 2015

The time has come for Medicare to cover the cost of expensive hearing aids. HLAA penned a letter of support for the Help Extend Auditory Relief (HEAR) Act, H.R 2748. On June 12, 2015, U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright announced the reintroduction of the HEAR Act, H.R 2748 with the support of 10 members of Congress. Cartwright first introduced the HEAR Act in 2013.

Action: Let your legislator know how critical your hearing aids are to your quality of life. Share what your hearing devices mean to you, what you pay for your devices and why this important. You can **write a letter** or join with others in your legislative district to **meet legislators in their office** during the summer recess.

HLAA-WA Action Goal: Have HLAA-WA members from every Legislative District in Washington State contact their representatives and ask them to support the HEAR bill.

If you don't know your district, here's how you can find out:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> If you would like assistance contacting your representative, you can email either Diana or me.

Progress to Date:

May 4, 2015

District 1, represented by Suzan DelBene. I met with Congresswoman DelBene in her Bothell office where I shared my personal story, our collective issues of discrimination, marginalization and the financial reality of living with hearing loss. I developed the attached fact sheet to highlight essential points. Following up, Greg Bawden sent a letter disclosing how hearing loss has impacted his job, loss of income, his family life and recreational activities.

Coming up

August 11, 2015

District 9, represented by Adam Smith.

August 11, 2015 @ 2 pm at the Bellevue Public Library (9th district members please contact Diana Thompson dianaft21@yahoo.com if you can attend). Diana has arranged a meeting with Congressman Smith's legislative assistant, Patrick. Diana will talk about the hearing aid Medicare and tax credit bills. I will discuss consumer protection and hearing access. If you attend, you will not need to feel obliged to talk. The meeting is expected to last 30 minutes. Your voice is needed!



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Convention 2015 St. Louis

National Get in the Hearing Loop Chapter Leader and Members Outreach Campaign

I was honored to be a part of the National HLAA Task Force to develop the Chapter Leader and Member Tool-Kit for looping community Houses of Worship that was presented at the St. Louis Convention.

Working directly with Anna Gilmore Hall, David Myers, Juliette Sterkens, Steve Frazier, Richard Einhorn, Cynthia Compton Connelly, Ed Ogiba, JoAnne DeVries and Jerry Bergman via twice monthly conference calls proved to be most educational and rewarding. Telephone communication with 10 people simultaneously; 8 of whom have varying degrees of hearing loss was quite the process. Unless speaking we were required to keep our phones on mute, less the threat of inference disrupt the fragile communication in progress. Deana Baker's expert captioning truly saved the day.

Early on, the group decided to focus on Places of Worship. For many members, the POW is central to their community and previous grassroots advocacy had yielded great success. Following Anna's leadership, outlines of agendas were created, with both short term and long term tasks assigned.

A sampling of issues addressed included:

- Support from common organizations; AAA, ASHA, Alexander Graham Bell, AARP, Area Aging
- Quality control standards, vendor accountability, Trade Union membership
- Identifying and securing metrics; how do we measure success?
- Feedback to management of, show of appreciation
- Publicity, Training, Audiology/ Hearing Aid specialists
- Non vendor specific loop locator website, and informational materials
- Worldwide Access? What's happening in other countries? Are looped boardrooms becoming the norm in Australia? Are they in place in the UK?

Over several months, materials were gathered, reviewed, revised and edited. Letters were combined, rewritten to strengthen messaging. Graphics were designed, altered and new pieces created. The best and most timely articles showcased. The consumer and vendor poster that's included is a Loop Washington piece that was adapted for the Tool-Kit. Printed versions of the Tool Kit were presented to each Task Force member at the convention.

The updated resources and complete Tool - Kit can be found on the website:

<http://hearingloss.org/content/loop-resources>

Currently, I don't have any printed versions of the Tool - Kit to share. Chapter leaders are encouraged to share information about the Tool – Kit and House of Worship outreach with chapter members. I am happy to do a presentation for any chapter who wishes to participate. Individual members who would like to participate in the House of Worship outreach campaign may email me directly at <mailto:cheripz@gmail.com> for more information.



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