

Access: Outreach and Community Presence

Newly looped facilities open the world of communication and unleash the potential to spread word about HLAA and communication access like never before. Aligned with Washington State ODHH, seamless effective communication access may soon be a reality. For thirty five years people with hearing loss have been meeting together, and with diminished hearing, sharing their world. Learning from each other essential communication tools, how to choose and communicate with and without hearing assistive technology. We know what works well and what does not. We are consumers with a voice.

Accessible venues make it easier than ever to assimilate into our communities with our presence to both model and educate others on what it is we need to best communicate effectively. For instance, it is much easier to ask someone to speak clearly into the microphone, than it is to bring in your own personal remote microphone and ask that it be passed from speaker to speaker. It is easier to fully engage when you do not have to plan ahead for hearing access. Our visibility in the community is key to alleviating stigma.

Better together. Strategic planning of outreach is of essence if we are to maximize and strengthen our most valuable resource: each other. We have opportunities and as board members, obligations to contribute to outreach on an individual basis, with friends; in pairs and small groups, in committees, and in **unison**, with the whole of HLAA and our supporting communities. Rather than try to attend as many health fairs as possible, let's try to choose outreach opportunities that have the greatest reach.

Support for a Super Goal

Unified / Whole of HLAA Community Support --That the board agree to directly support and form committees to support and staff 2 *Whole Group, whole of HLAA* community presence events for 2014-2015.

SAVE THE DATE: 9/15, 2014 HLAA-WA and Town Hall debuts the Hearing Loop at Town Hall!
Katherine Bouton will be the key note speaker. Each of us needs to make every effort to attend, to reach out to our individual communities and ask our friends to attend and seek out VIP community leaders to lend their voice to our efforts.

Supporting Tasks

Connect with your community: companies, schools, audiologists, physicians, and organizations; share our story and extend invitations to the event. Encourage groups to share the news, generate enthusiasm and build attendance through their newsletters, social media and personal networking. At event, connect with others, give out HLAA meeting and membership information and plan to connect. BTW -- For the 2014-2015 seasons, we are shooting for a series of 3 speakers with hearing loss as the topic.

Suggestions for additional Unified/ Whole of HLAA Community Projects

1. An informative, educational lunch time program for DSHS and Long Term Aging in collaboration with ODHH and the state looping project. This is the educational program to explain hearing loss, hearing aids, hearing loops and auxiliary services that would be directed to Washington state departments: DSHS, Aging and Long Term Care. This would be the program that we were hoping to do with Juliette Sterkens last spring in Olympia/ Lacey. ** Budget item
2. HLAA 35th Birthday and / or May is Better Speech and Hearing Month
3. Taste of Technology Bi – Annual ODHH Outreach
4. National HLAA projects/Collaboration with Oregon
5. Hearing Health expo 2016

Pair and Small Group/Local Support—That the board agree to form committees and elect a pair and / or group to support attendance and participation in **Networking Conferences, Events and Health Fairs.**

Suggestions for Small Group/Local Support events

Any ODHH, DVR, DSHS, and ALTS Loop/ Hearing Loss/Hearing Access Program

Audiology conferences: Virginia Mason, 2014 Seattle 4/25-26, WSAW 2014 9/12-13 Tacoma, Confirmed. Hearing Society (dispensers) 2015 3/5-7 Vancouver

Veteran's Day 11/11 Program: in collaboration with ODHH Event TBD possibility

Senior Lobby; monthly meetings and Senior Lobby Day, Silver Tsunami, Transportation

Legislative: Hearing and Speech Board, Telecoil law, Hearing aid tax credit, Hearing aid /CI coverage,

Optional: Programs held by supportive organizations: ODHH and Regional Centers, Washington Access Fund, Listen and Talk, Derrick Coleman Foundation, Global Foundation for Hearing, UW, Governor's Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities, Area Aging Association, Lighthouse for the Blind, DVR, Alzheimer's Association, Bellevue Arts Fair, 4 culture Arts& Social Justice, City Club, League of Women Voters, Health Fairs, Senior Centers

Individual: That the board agree to form committees to support individual advocacy work.

Suggestions for Individual Advocacy: That the board agree to form committees to support individual advocacy work. Need Seattle based FB savvy, caption ticket chairperson. Tickets donated to you or your chapter may be sold or raffled with proceeds going to your chapter.

Support Caption Access: Attend live, performing arts: STG Paramount, 5th Avenue, The Seattle Rep, Act Theatre and the Seattle Rep, The Seattle Arts and Lecture Series, The Seattle Seahawks, The Seattle Sounders, The Seattle Mariners, Open Caption Movies and device driven caption access.

Support Hearing Loop Access: Town Hall Seattle, ACT in Anacortes, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue College Carlson Theatre, Meaningful Movies at Kirkland Universalist Unitarian and BCCT, Libraries: Bainbridge, Bellevue, Burlington and hopefully YOUR local branch.

Support Advocacy Actions of Others: Attend meetings, events, and councils for a show of support for others to network, speak out and promote HLAA, our mission and universal public access.

Attend local chapter meetings, state meetings and national conventions. Participate in on line webinars, conversations and social media dialogues.

4 Culture/Arts/Social Change

Town Hall Seattle: Town Hall's two performance spaces, the Great Hall and the Downstairs are being looped! We are planning a series of events related to hearing loss. Currently, I'm scrambling to create PR materials and documents to ensure that the speakers will regularly announce the loop to educate both speakers and patrons about loop technology. We are working with Town Hall to publicize the event and are hoping for a grand turnout. Your input and participation are needed! Committees and work parties make it fun and quick to get the job done.

Save the Date and Spread the Word: Book Talk! Katherine Bouton will deliver a talk: "How I lost my Hearing and Found my Life Again" and participate in an interview with Mike James. She will talk about hearing loss (and the hearing loop) at **Town Hall Seattle on September 15, 2014, at 7:30 pm**. This is an exciting event that we will heavily promote in conjunction with Town Hall. A reception prior to the event is a possibility. **Budget item

SIFF: Seattle International Film Festival is renovating/remodeling the Egyptian theatre. I've reached out to their coordinator to see if HLA/Loop can be involved in their accessibility decision. They are seeking funds from their constituents, so their budget may be limited. Contact: tammy.williams@siff.net

Meydenbauer Theatre: The temporary home for the Bellevue Youth Theatre. Contact: Stephen Elliott Theatre Manager 425-450-3810 selliott@meydenbauer.com

Civic Access

Bellevue City Council 7/5/2014: Thanks to the advocacy leadership of Diana Thompson, The interim Director of the Bellevue Arts Museum,* along with five HLAA-WA Bellevue members (Kate Johnston, Ed Friant and Sandy Vigroff, Diana and me) attended the Bellevue City Council meeting to request funding for barrier free hearing access and hearing loop technology.

Bellevue is reviewing its hearing accessibility options for the Botanical Gardens, Youth Theatre, and a several rooms at City Hall including council chambers. Although, HLAA member turnout was smaller than we'd hoped for, Kate Johnston, clearly made an impact with her powerful, persuasive heartfelt presentation..."*If you install a loop at the Youth theatre, I'd gladly buy tickets to every single play...*"

BAM Interim director, Linda Pauson, read a glowing review prepared by Chris DeGrazia.

We continue to encourage the board and fellow HLAA members to follow up with letters and a show of support. Letters can be directed to: council@bellevuewa.gov.

City of Seattle: The Assistive Listening System Advisory committee update was held July 17 and was attended by two HLAA-WA Seattle Chapter members: Bill Collision and Maridee Garvey, plus ALDA Leader/ Hearing Loss Resource Specialist, Christine Seymour, and me. The agenda included Assistive Listening System options, chamber acoustics study, scope and schedule of improvements, chamber FM system/signage, legislative process improvements, and the accommodations web page for review and feedback.

Research presented by the city: We learned that other similar councils were contacted but none of the contacted councils have hearing loops. Local PACs and auditoriums, including Benaroya Hall, McCaw Hall and the Seattle Center were contacted. I have a dialogue going with Seattle Center, but have yet to hear from Benaroya or McCaw. We've been talking to STG. Again, no venue with hearing loops was contacted.

FM is most the commonly available technology in most chambers. Negative feedback deterred interest for the Infrared.

Action taken: A new microphone and visual alerting system will be installed in August. These new and improved microphones allow only one speaker and offer a visual indicator for the person speaking. Based on our input, the city hopes to teach everyone how to use the new microphones to garner better results for users of hearing assistive technology.

Following our round table meeting last December when the city's FM failed, a new FM with neck loops was ordered. Signage has been installed. The city council chambers are compliant with a request for access.

Hearing loops are to be put on the budget.

Seattle TV; New lighting improvements have been ordered and will be installed in August. No captions. Irene Steward requested that both the speaker and the power point be shown. It was agreed that staff could be trained to film in a way to provide that feature.

Website work is ongoing and will be available for advisory comment this month.

Our response: We asked the city to reconsider research to include city councils that have loop technology and to consult with looped auditoriums and arts venues as well as those using other technology. The City was presented with a listing of looped city councils.

We noted the hearing assistive technology provided for the recent HLAA national convention was user-friendly hearing loops for all but one of the six meeting rooms. Over 1,000 individuals attended and participated in more than 30 educational workshops using this easy to use, barrier free technology

We presented research data on FM use and user preferences. We highlighted that the user-friendly choice of hearing loops was the technology that would get used. We pointed to our hearing devices as

being the receivers we use with our hearing assistive technology. Emphasis was placed on the visual of the personal receiver being our own hearing aids and cochlear implants.

In conclusion, the list of looped city councils combined with contact information and quotes are key. Most helpful would be to get HLAA folks to verify there's loop in working order for each council location on this list. Benefit statements and contact information would make it a turnkey solution for both city officials and fellow advocates.

Montesano City Council: The Montesano City Councilwoman who filed the accessibility complaint, Marisa Salzer, received much media attention. We've connected with her via Wes. The Montesano council chambers do have a looped room. Working with Wes, we reached out to determine if she was aware of the loop, if it would benefit her, and if the loop was operational. MS Salzer currently requests ASL interpreters for communication access and has been frustrated by the lack of dependable, regular compliance by the city.

Out West with Wes: Wes has monitoring civic ADA compliance and accessibility across the peninsula. With help from Bruce Rafford, he found little progress in Shelton despite past efforts, so he filed a Justice Department complaint, and they are slowly making improvements. Elma's newly remodeled city hall is looped, and Oakville had never heard of the ADA but promised to look into it next year.

Ocean Shores had made little progress in the five years since initial contact, and procedures and locations for complaints and offices were unclear. A complaint about Ocean Shores is necessary. Hoquium has also made little progress, and an email was sent to the city manager on 7/23. Aberdeen had no assistive listening devices at all for a recent League of Women Voters event, despite the fact that several attendees needed a device. A complaint will be filed. Wes met with Holly Leonard in Grays Harbor county regarding looping.

Library Loop Access Project

Bainbridge Public Library: Bainbridge Public Library installed a loop in its community room; the result of advocacy by Marsha Gladhart and Hilary Hilsher. A rotary grant was used to fund the installation that was completed by Rick Faunt. We've publicized this loop with a short blog and FB. Try the loop and report back!

Bellevue Public Library loop: Bellevue Public Library's Meeting Room 1 is now looped. This is their largest meeting room with a capacity of 135. This is a huge victory, as many public and private events are held in this highly visible branch. Members are encouraged to view the library's website, choose an event to attend, register (if necessary) and attend a program, and report back to Let's Loop Seattle with their experience using the loop!

Burlington Public Library: Let's Loop Seattle donated a Supra T Counter Loop to bring visibility and support to the local advocacy to loop the Burlington Library's meeting room. A collaborative effort between Bellingham HLAA-WA, Anacortes super loop advocates Jerry and Joanna Olmstead and Let's Loop Seattle made both the meeting room and the information counter accessible for patrons with

hearing loss. We have reached out to library director Maggie Buckholtz for event details so we can easily publicize accessible events that are held in the Burlington Library. Maggie sent a formal thank you for the donated counter loop.

Social and Community Presence

Give Big: Networked to generate matching funds.

Chapter meetings: Attended Seattle and Renton chapter meetings

Redefining Vision: Attended with Francie Pennell and Christine Seymour; met Derick Coleman!

Girl Scout Luncheon: Requested access, followed up when access wasn't provided.

Global Foundation for Hearing Loss/ Derrick Coleman event: Connected, advocated for both captioning and hearing loop access. Helped Spencer Norby install the temporary hearing loop. Networked had photo with Derick Coleman!

DVR State Plan Spokane: Requested hearing loop accommodations, attended tested the P200 DVR installed loop, and worked with Bruce to facilitate the hearing access needs for people who are hard of hearing.

Open-captioned theatre performances: Regularly recruit, promote and attend caption performances at the Paramount and STG.

Sports: Mariner's Game: Seattle member Devin Myers organized and members attended a Mariners game, expressed gratitude for the captions and were recognized on King 5.

Social Media Promotions

Give Big: Promoted and solicited donations. Forwarded all communication to Karen and Elizabeth.

Taste of Technology: Promoted and encouraged attendance. Networked.

Convention: Promoted and encouraged attendance. Posted updates and photos. Networked.

HLA-WA picnic: Promoted and encouraged attendance at the annual picnic.

Bellevue City Council meetings: Promoted and encouraged attendance at the Bellevue City Council meeting. Also encouraged email support for looping.

Washington Access Fund: We encouraged our community members to vote for the Washington Access Fund for the BECU People Helping People award. They are one of the winners.

Accessible events: We continue to promote accessible events as much as possible and thank/tweet/FB our gratitude.

Other PR and Communications

KING-5 and Lori Matsukawa: Through my informal network, I connected with Lori Matsukawa of KING-5 news. She is considering a story on hearing loops and has expressed interest in coverage of hearing loss issues. Web updates: Website for Let's Loop Seattle undergoing small and large updates.

News and Important Dates

Senior Lobby: Fall monthly meetings: **August 18, September 15, November 17** held Monday mornings from 10-12 at the Panorama Chalet in Lacey. Fall Conference **October 28th 9-3** and Senior Lobby Legislative reception **October 28th 4-7**. <http://www.waseniorlobby.org/calendar/>

September 9-11 Contacta Hearing Loop Training: Portland at the Red Lion. Email rhannon@contactainc.com [Rhttp://www.contactaglobal.com/](http://www.contactaglobal.com/)

September 15 @7:30 TOWN HALL LOOP DEBUT WITH KATHERINE BOUTON www.townhallseattle.org
Sept. 15-17 UW Ear Clinic Registration closed.

Nov 1, 2014: Annual All Members Board Meeting Location TBD. btw: Bellevue Library is not available.

Nov 11 2014: John Hackenberry, noted Disability Rights Speaker at Town Hall; WA Access Fund benefit

Social Networking

August 15, 7pm Meaningful Movies: Universal Unitarian Kirkland 7pm: Amazing Grace and Chuck. Ice Cream and non-dairy ice cream social included. <http://northlakeuu.org/>

Sept. 5, 7 pm Free First Fridays @ BAM The first Friday of each month, the Bellevue Arts Museum has free entry to its exhibits, along with a hearing accessible First Friday Talk which takes place in the looped Auditorium. Wendy Maruyama, artist of the celebrated large scale sculpture Executive Order 9066: The Tag Project Installation honoring 120,000 Japanese Americans interned during WWII

September 10, 7 p.m., FILM SCREENING - "One Big Hapa Family" - at the Carlson Theater* at Bellevue College, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue WA 98007. Half Japanese-Canadian filmmaker, Jeff Chiba Stearns, embarks on a journey of self-discovery to find out why everyone in his Japanese-Canadian family married interracially after his grandparents' generation. This live action/animated documentary explores why almost 100% of all Japanese-Canadians are marrying interracially, the highest out of any other ethnicity in Canada, and how their mixed children perceive their unique multiracial identities. There will be a Q&A with filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns following the screening. Appropriate for ages 12 years and older. This event is free, but reservations are strongly recommended. RSVP to Kevin Henry at khenry@bellevuewa.gov or [425-452-7886](tel:425-452-7886). For more information about the film, [visit the film's web site](#). * Carson Theatre is looped, we hope it will be used.**

Paramount: August 3, 2014 Book of Mormon, December 7, 2014 How the Grinch Stole Christmas

5th Avenue: August 16, 2014 Ballroom with a Twist, September 18, 2014 A Chorus Line, October 14, 2014 Kinky Boots, December 7, 2014 A Christmas Story: The Musical