

**Meetings and Direct Advocacy**

**August 28, 2013: Disabilities Collaborative - Transportation Access**

Kate and I attended a meeting at the ARC. Our purpose was to discuss forming a statewide coalition to promote accessible transit and to have representation at each transportation meeting in the state. I arranged and helped set up remote CART for this meeting.

I contacted Erich Ebel, legislator and the person responsible for arranging the transportation meetings. I told him the meetings, as arranged were not accessible to the public. I suggested he arrange for the CART for future meetings. The issues: the lack of accessible transportation for people with disabilities; lack of effective communication access in transportation. In addition, the meetings themselves were not accessible to people with disabilities to attend and participate in public meetings. Bruce Rafford provided follow up support in Spokane.

**Recommendation:** Identify key people to represent people with Hearing Loss state wide for Transportation Access.

**August 28, 2013: Loop Anacortes**

I met with Anacortes advocates, the Olmsteads and the Littles. I toured the area's looped venues: the senior center, the library, and the council chambers. I talked with venue managers to garner feedback. The goal was to secure ideas to improve access and facilitate cooperation among parties. I met with Doug Christenson of Audio Loop Solutions and talked with Brenda Drake; Hearing aid specialist, while Doug worked on the loop install at the Anacortes Community Theatre (ACT). Follow up includes providing information and signage to share with venues and those who use the looped facilities in those venues.

**Recommendation:** Provide supplemental materials and publications for venues who have installed assistive technology. I've created a Best Practices guide and realize we need another guide: The Microphone is Key; Successful Meetings Utilizing Assistive technology. Signage utilizing the Universal Hearing Access symbol with a variety of wording. I welcome your suggestions and input.

Let's schedule a Field Trip to Anacortes to attend a play in the newly Looped ACT Theatre.

**September 5, 2013: Swedish Collaborative: Hospital Outreach**

Karen, Judy, and I prepared materials to share with the Interpreter Services Area Providers representing most hospitals in the area. Karen prepared a presentation that Judy delivered. Spencer Norby provided a loop technology presentation in the looped room.

**September 10, 2013: Seattle Chapter Meeting**

I assisted with planning and provided support.

September 12, 2013: **HAAA-WA in Bellevue**

I was the presenter for their September meeting. My title was "Hearing Loops and Advocating for Access." Sample letters were distributed. Attendees were encouraged to make inquiries at their local libraries about hearing access for library programs. Attendees were encouraged to attend the live theater Captioned performances in Seattle.

**Recommendation:** Contact the church for technology support; a separate microphone is needed to facilitate audience participation and Q and A. Loop receivers were given to the chapter to facilitate loop use as needed.

September 13, 2013: **Washington State Audiology Conference**

Karen and I prepared materials and participated in the conference. We gave brief presentations and described what we do and how we can support each other. We gave a Professional Membership to support their Raffle. Chris Borders or Eastside Audiology won the membership.

September 17, 2013: **City Club Seattle**

To bring hearing access to the table as part of discussions about civic engagement, I (we) joined City Club and spent a week exchanging emails with the office administrator about hearing access and CART. I secured CART and somehow managed to have the room rearranged so the CART was delivered on a full-sized screen. The program that day was titled "Navigating Healthcare."

**Recommendation:** This puts hearing loss and hearing access front and center; City Club mission is to foster active civic engagement. **Please attend their programs as a member of HAAA-WA. Register at least two weeks early and request Hearing access. Please cc me. <http://www.seattlecityclub.org/>**

September 20-21, 2013: **Salem Sojourn**

Karen and I attended the Oregon state program: Charting the Course to Empowerment. We met with HAAA Loop Advocates Juliette and Max who were the main presenters for the day-long meeting. Talking with them we were able to brainstorm ideas to advance the loop movement. We helped set up and networked with presenters, sponsors, and attendees.

**Recommendation:** HAAA-WA hold a similar program: Connecting to Community. Juliette and Max will be in Seattle the last week of April and programs are being planned for April 25 and 26. I would like Juliette to speak to as many groups as possible. I need help securing speaking engagements for Juliette as well as an event planner/committee for the time that they are willing to be here with us.

September 28, 2013: **Support our Audiologists!**

Lilia, Judy, and I attended Hearing Balance Lab's program by Nichole Kingham on captioned phones and smartphone apps. We engaged others and helped facilitate discussion.

October 1, 2013: **Disability Commission Collaborative: Meet the Seattle Police!** Karen, Ann Rogers and I attended this 2<sup>nd</sup> police meeting arranged by the Seattle Commission for People w Disabilities. We discussed communication issues and strategies to improve communication between the police and people with hearing loss. One community outreach officer followed up and attended the next Seattle a meeting.

**Recommendation:** HLAA-WA members to attend the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities meetings and Programs. HLAA-WA members who are residents of Seattle should apply to be on the Commission.

October 2, 2013: **Area Aging Collaborative - Washington Planning Association Event at BAM**

Through previous outreach to the City of Bellevue, Janet Levine, Bellevue City Planner, had arranged for HLAA-WA to have a table and a presence at this social event for the state American Planning Association conference. Diana Thompson assisted me as we talked with attendees and demonstrated the counter loop. It was quite the challenge; there was a very loud rock band playing during the whole event!

October 6, 2013: **Secondhand Lions at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre**

I attended this terrific play and mentored Cassidy Reynolds, (a hard of hearing student we met at the Bellevue Arts Fair outreach) on how to access and use the assistive technology, and also on how to advocate for herself. Signage: I saw only a single, very small sign inside the coat check area indicating hearing technology was available. The volunteer in charge was not knowledgeable about neck loops. Cassidy was given a loop that didn't work and had to be returned.

Recommendation: Follow –up with the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theater to provide signage and informational materials on the website, in house and on printed materials. HLAA-WA members are encouraged to attend and support the advocacy work of Wash Cap. Look for signage, check out assistive equipment and write letters to the 5<sup>th</sup> and send a review to me and DeafREVIEW.

October 11, 2013 **City Club Seattle: Part 2**

Karen and I attended this fundraising breakfast; technology was the topic. We requested CART and received tabletop CART. We used the opportunity to talk with other attendees about hearing loss and lack of hearing access.

October 12, 2013: **Caption Collaborative - CCAC Meet-up**

Promoted and attended CCAC's meet-up in Seattle at UW. HLAA-WA and Wash Cap were well-represented.

October 15-21, 2013: **ALDA/TDI Conference, Albuquerque**

I attended this conference with Karen. I disclosed my HL during the airline ticket purchase and then using the TSA Cares helpline, we requested pre-boarding. We received a voucher and were asked to stand with the mobility-challenged travelers. I informed the flight attendant of my HL and was given the *Braille card!* (Nothing hearing loss related was available.)

I used social media to update people on the events unfolding at ALDA/TDI. Photos were particularly well-received and drove our Facebook reach and engagement considerably.

October 24, 2013: **4Culture and KCLS**

I met with 4 Culture and a KCLS representative to discuss a debut of the newly looped Issaquah Service Center at the King County Library System headquarters which is located a few blocks from the main Issaquah library branch. We could not decide on an event, but did brainstorm ways to move forward with informing the public and utilizing the space. I've written a press release for them to use to announce the space.

Recommendation: We need to reserve the room and use the space and test the equipment. We need to secure a presentation at a staff meeting.

### Writing Projects

1. A **white paper** on how hearing loss—untreated and unaccommodated hearing loss, specifically—impacts business, the economy, and wages. The goal was to help people understand how hearing loss is public health and economic issue.
2. **Outreach letters (some are still in draft)** to the Gates Foundation, SeaTac Airport (follow-up), the WSAA, Aging King County (regarding hearing loss being a factor for falls).
3. A **checklist** on how looped venues can best use their loop to accommodate employees and the public.
4. **Questionnaire and coaching document** for people who receive theatre tickets (how to request the ALD, etc.)
5. Worked with Lilia to **create a letter and form** for Chapter leaders to distribute and take orders for the Captioned Play tickets. Mailed and distributed tickets to board members, chapter leaders and individual members.
6. Article for the November issue of **AgeWise King County**, the ADS Advisory Council's e-newsletter. This article discussed the different types of ALDS and listed resources.
7. A new marketing page to supplement the traditional Let's Loop informational piece. It includes photos and specific loop applications. (created as a handout for the BAM event, but can be used elsewhere, too.)
8. Other **updated informational pieces, cards, and handouts**.
9. **Sample advocacy letters and thank-you letters** (handed out to HLAA-WA members) to encourage self-advocacy.
10. **Revised and updated loop presentation**. Runs automatically and contains sound and video. Designed for BAM event, but can be used elsewhere, too.