

**HLAA-WA Annual Meeting & Board Meeting
October 28, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Everett Library, Everett WA**



Board Members Present:

Warren Weissman, President	Kimberly Parker
Sandra Bunning	Cheri Perazzoli
Judi Carr	Glenda Philio
Bill Collison	Cynthia Stewart
Don Gischer	Jayesh Unadkat
Devin Myers	Karen Utter

Other Members Present:

Diana Thompson
David Hart, Captioner
Steve Peck, WA State ODHH

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. by Warren Weissman, President. After introductions, it was noted that the meeting room was looped.

Advocacy Initiatives

Warren explained that this discussion was in lieu of a speaker, given the importance of the advocacy initiatives in HLAA-WA's current work.

Cheri, Diana and Cynthia discussed the HLAA advocacy plans, including Medicaid coverage of hearing aids, hearing loss in relation to the State's Dementia and Alzheimer's plan, and a telecoil bill.

Cheri noted that for the last five years, HLAA-WA has focused on the hearing loop campaign, resulting in a wide range of venues that are now looped. Focus is now shifting to the need for people to have hearing aids. Cheri noted that Medicaid coverage for adult hearing aids was cut in 2011 and has not been restored, and this will be a major advocacy emphasis in 2018.

Diana discussed the two bills that were considered in the 2017 legislative session that might have restored Medicaid coverage of hearing aids, the processes they each went through and the outcomes. Neither bill survived the full session. This year, all HLAA-WA members are asked to help explain to the legislature how important hearing aids are to people with hearing loss and how prohibitive the cost is for many people. Diana also mentioned that AARP is supporting this and lobbying actively for the coverage to be restored.

Cheri discussed the future OTC hearing aids and that they are probably about three years away, having to go through FDA regulatory processes before they can be sold. She noted that OTC hearing aids are not designed for the population of people who have moderate to severe hearing loss.

The discussion was temporarily recessed while other business was conducted.

Election of Trustees

Cheri Perazzoli, Bill Collison, Sandy Bunning and Karen Utter were reelected to the Board and sworn in for two-year terms expiring in November 2019.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Trustees

Kimberly Parker and Judi Carr were presented with certificates of appreciation for their respective tenures on the Board. A celebration with cake ensued.

Advocacy Initiatives, cont'd

Among the issues with which the legislature is struggling in addressing requests for restoring Medicaid coverage for adult hearing aids is whether to fund one or two aids.

Cynthia discussed HLAA-WA's plan to seek that the legislature consider a proposal to require audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to provide information to their customers about telecoils, and to explain to consumers that telecoils are needed to take advantage of ADA-mandated hearing assistive systems.

Diana described the work of the Dementia Action Coalition and its work to adopt a statewide plan. The Coalition recognizes that hearing loss can be mistaken for dementia and that there may be a relationship between untreated hearing loss and onset of dementia.

A variety of ideas were shared for how to get the word out about hearing assistive technology. It was agreed there will be articles written.

Steve Peck, ODHH

Steve Peck spoke briefly, explaining his role in the assistive technology program. He noted that ODHH has portable loops, counter loops and FM systems available and will be working on a plan to get more assistive technology installed around the state. He noted that some of the Regional Service Centers have technology originally purchased by ODHH that is now about 10-15 years old and has to be replaced.

Minutes of April 22, 2017

It was moved, seconded and passed that the minutes be approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report

Warren commented on the financial report prepared by Bill Collison, as Bill left the meeting early due to a prior commitment. He noted that HLAA-WA did well in 2017, with \$12,979 revenue and \$9,139 expenditures, with a net gain of \$3840. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Treasurers report be accepted.

HLOF/Scholarships

The Hearing Loss Outreach Fund (HLOF) is used for scholarships to the national convention. There is \$10,000 available in that Fund. Generally, it has been targeted toward Board members. An option is to use the scholarship to educate newer members and cultivate them for potential future Board membership. It was suggested that a committee be formed to develop criteria for the scholarships. It was agreed that no scholarship should be given to anyone who won't later remain active in HLAA-WA.

2018 Fundraising

Warren explained that GiveBIG will continue to be the primary fundraising for 2018; however, this will be the last year of GiveBIG. Some other strategy will need to be developed during the year for 2019.

Communications Report and Discussion

E-News, Sound Waves and other options were discussed. E-News helps communication with members between issues of Sound Waves editions, which are quarterly. Comments indicated that it is working well. It should be put on the HLAA-WA web site.

Sound Waves also was described as working well both in terms of articles and in dollars generated. There is a preference that Sound Waves remain a quarterly publication. A member corner was suggested, in which people could write about their experiences with hearing aids, failure to hear at events with no proper hearing assistance, etc.

Another need that was identified is for a tri-fold brochure that describes how to communicate with someone who needs hearing aids.

Cheri suggested doing our own Hearing Expo, which would require using some of the operating budget.

Nominations for 2018

Methods of recruiting Board members for election at the next Annual meeting were discussed. These included recruitment articles in Sound Waves and using a nominating committee. It was suggested that Board members' names with email addresses be put in Sound Waves. A decision about how to develop nominations was deferred until the Spring Board meeting.

Upcoming Outreach Events

A variety of events that can be listed in E-News were identified.

Election of Officers

It was moved, seconded and passed that:

- Warren Weissman be elected President;
- Cynthia Stewart be elected Secretary; and
- Bill Collison be elected Treasurer; and that
- Vice President be elected at the Spring Board meeting.

Next Meeting

The Spring Board meeting will be **April 7, 2018**, at a location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Stewart, Secretary