Bob Branigin: Present at Every HLAA Convention
By Karen Utter, President of HLAA-WA

Bob Branigin is one of only two people to have attended all of the 30 SHHH/HLAA conventions held since the organization was founded in 1979. As we celebrate HLAA’s 35th anniversary, we also heartily congratulate Bob! Despite increasing physical and medical challenges, he has shown his devotion to HLAA by attending every one of the 30 HLAA conventions held all over the country starting in 1984. This past June, together with others from Washington State, I traveled to St. Louis for the 2015 HLAA convention. Traveling with Bob, assisting him in overcoming the challenges posed by hearing loss and other significant disabilities, and seeing his excitement at being at yet another HLAA convention, reminded me what a privilege it is to be a member of HLAA and to join every year with other HLAA members from all over the country!

Bob has been a member of HLAA since the beginning. He had the honor of meeting Rocky Stone, the founder of SHHH—Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, which eventually became HLAA—when Rocky spoke in Seattle at the Swedish Club in 1984.

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Seattle’s City Council Chambers: In the Loop and Now Hearing Accessible
By Jerry Paulukonis, HLAA Member

The Seattle City Council chambers (where the Council holds public meetings) has been looped! This is terrific news for those who want to attend Council meetings and participate in municipal affairs, and it sends a powerful message of inclusion for people with hearing loss.

HLAA Director of Advocacy Cheri Perazzoli, who was instrumental in the adoption of the loop technology for the City Council chambers, said, “The looping of this highly visible venue will help to educate the public about user-friendly telecoil and loop technology. I hope other government offices will take note and implement universal loop technology.”

An induction (hearing) loop is a wire network connected to the room’s

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Time Very Well Spent: The HLAA Convention
By Warren Weissman, Editor

I went to my first HLAA national convention in June, as part of a substantial group from Washington state.

Some of the Washington state contingent. Photo by Sandra Bunning.

HLAA-WA President Karen Utter and Director of Advocacy Cheri Perazzoli were

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Councilmember Tom Rasmussen with HLAA-WA’s Cheri Perazzoli. Photo by Lou Perazzoli.
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The Long Road to Full Hearing Access
By Cheri Perazzoli, HLAA-WA Director of Advocacy

As someone with progressive hearing loss, I absolutely need to think about how I’ll communicate every day in every interaction. Two recent events have reminded me how much our work still matters and how we must continue to advocate for hearing loss support and technology.

First, the 25th anniversary of the signing into law of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) occurred on July 26, 2015. If you have a disability, it’s hard to imagine a more momentous anniversary!

I spoke on behalf of HLAA-WA at the 25th anniversary celebration of the ADA, at Seattle’s Westlake Park, on July 22. We wanted to make sure hearing loss was represented and acknowledged as a disability in the eyes of the city and the communities representing people with disabilities. We secured a wonderful CART (real-time captioning) provider for the Westlake rally, which helped tremendously. But a larger stage to more-effectively house the CART screen, or a quieter location, would have enabled people with hearing loss to better appreciate the event. This reminded all of us to make hearing access part of any event-planning process from day one, before key decisions are made.

I was disappointed that something as large and as meaningful as the ADA anniversary was given very little attention by the press, but the anniversary was still a strong reminder of how far people with disabilities, including the many people with hearing loss, have come in the last 25 years.

Then, on July 31, 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study, actually undertaken during 2013, entitled “Prevalence of Disability and Disability Type Among Adults—United States, 2013.” The study used survey questions to identify the prevalence of disability related to vision loss, cognition, mobility, self-care and independent living among U.S. adults. But, shockingly, the survey questions didn’t ask about hearing loss as a disability! The study failed to even mention hearing loss, which affects 48 million people in the U.S., in its conclusions about the prevalence of disability. It is hard to express how surprised and dismayed I was that the CDC did not include me and millions of others in their latest study on the prevalence of disability. (See more on page 5 of this newsletter about HLAA’s outraged reaction to the CDC study.)

It eventually came to light that in conducting the study the CDC concluded that people with hearing loss couldn’t adequately participate by phone in the “Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS),” the public health survey that gathers state-by-state data. Just like that, hearing loss became invisible in reporting on the most prevalent forms of disability in the U.S. Because of the outcry after the study was released, the CDC now plans to include hearing loss in their future BRFSS questions. But that’s only a start in truly including and supporting people with hearing loss.

We call hearing loss the invisible disability. Both of the events I have written about demonstrate how much it matters to show up and speak up. People will respond— with our help, guidance, and input. The NW Universal Design Council offers a fantastic guide to creating accessible meetings, and it should continued on page 3
Road to Hearing Access  cont. from page 2

be on the desk of every meeting planner in town. The CDC must be made aware of the many technologies that facilitate communication access for people with hearing loss.

How the CDC missed 48 million people—and the millions more friends, co-workers, and family members who cherish and need those people—remains a mystery to me. But I do know a solution: make hearing loss care and treatment, and hearing access technologies, an urgent public health priority and nothing less than a moral imperative.

The ADA helped get us where we are today, and we should celebrate those victories. But as the saying goes, “What got us here won’t get us there.” The ADA alone won’t get us full hearing access. For that, we need dedicated leadership with real resources and investments from the government and private industry in our infrastructure: hearing loops, captions, early intervention, hearing loss care, Medicare coverage of hearing aids, aural rehabilitation and so much more. We must continue to create environments, policies, and services that will benefit us all—seniors, veterans, children, and everyone in between—for generations to come.

seen and heard

We are saddened at the passing of Mary Gischer, wife of HLAA-WA Board of Trustees Secretary Don Gischer, on July 20. Mary strongly supported Don’s commitment to HLAA-WA and to Whatcom County chapter leadership. She will be greatly missed by her Whatcom County Chapter friends and all who knew her.

HLAA-WA held its annual family picnic at Lake Boren Park in Newcastle on July 11. Attendees enjoyed cool weather, good food and lots of camaraderie. For the first time, the picnic venue was looped. Spencer Norby of Hearing Loop Northwest installed a temporary loop around the entire covered picnic area. Uncertainty about how well such an installation might work quickly gave way to broad smiles. Telecoil users found themselves able to hear and understand what was being said into the microphone, overcoming the wind noise and poor acoustics of the picnic area. Thank you, Spencer!

As of July 1, 2015 Hamilton Relay became the service provider for Washington Relay, the state’s captioned telephone service. Hamilton Relay replaced Sprint through a competitive procurement process. The service enables people with hearing or speech disabilities to place phone calls and communicate effectively.

The Washington Relay service is cost-free (long distance charges apply). Washington’s Telecommunication Equipment Distribution program makes free telecommunications equipment available for qualified Washington residents.

HLAA member Mary O’Neil, who attended the Seattle HLAA meetings, recently moved to Northern California. HLAA-WA President Karen Utter reports receiving a very welcome and gratifying note from Mary about the importance of her HLAA membership. Mary wrote, “The first place I will go will be the local HLAA meeting a few blocks from my new place [in California]. I can’t tell you how much the [HLAA] meetings and connections have helped me.” Mary originally found HLAA after reading an on-line comment by HLAA national Board member Katherine Bouton about the benefits of seeking understanding and camaraderie at HLAA chapter meetings.

HLAA member Sandra Bunning reports a heart-warming experience with the Cochlear Implant Parts Swap USA program. She comments, “There is a Facebook page my friend told me about because I got my N-6 CI processor upgrade, had a back-up, and didn’t need my Freedom processor any more.”

Through the Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/CIPS.USA/), Sandra offered to donate her Freedom processor. Several people answered and she chose Debbie in Jennings, Louisiana. Sandra reports, “Debbie has had a Freedom processor for ten years and it began to malfunction just about every time she turned her head. Not fun, and costly to replace.”

Sandra sent Debbie her Freedom processor and accessories. She subsequently received a note from Debbie saying, “Hi Sandy,...The coil works perfectly. It’s so nice to turn my head and not have a short...Again, thank you so much.”

HLAA-WA member Maridee Garvey reports that the Captiview captioning system at the Oak Tree Cinemas, in the Lilton Springs area of Seattle, made for very pleasant entertainment. Maridee says she “noticed the sound system was not as annoyingly blaring as seems to be the case in a lot of theaters today.” Maridee also asked the cinema manager if he had many requests for the Captiview device. She reports, “He said he had had only two requests that day, and they have eight devices.”
Local HLAA Chapters and Support Groups

Information, Education, Advocacy, and Support

Meeting times may change. Visitors, friends, family members and healthcare professionals are always welcome at any of our meetings. Please note that some of the groups do not meet during July and August. We suggest sending an e-mail to be sure the group is meeting when you plan to visit. See www.hearingloss-wa.org for more information.

BELLEVUE — 2nd Saturday 1:00 pm
Lake Sammamish Foursquare Church,
Rm. 104, 14434 NE 8th St., Bellevue
Hearing assistance: amplification, FM system, induction loop, CART (real-time captioning).
info@hearingloss-wa.org or Karen: 206-817-3213

EAST JEFFERSON CO. — 4th Monday 1:00 pm
Port Townsend Community Center,
620 Tyler St., Port Townsend
Hearing assistance: amplification, FM system.
Emily: 360-531-2247, mandelbaum@olympus.net.
Meetings are held Sept—Oct and Jan—May

RENTON — 2nd Friday 12:30 pm
Renton Senior Activity Center,
211 Burnett Ave. N., Renton
Hearing assistance: amplification, FM system and CART (real-time captioning, most meetings).
Glenda: philiofam@gmail.com or 253-631-2345 (evenings).

SEATTLE — 2nd Tuesday 6:45 pm
Aljoya Conference Room
450 NE 100th St., Seattle
Hearing assistance: amplification, induction loop, CART (real-time captioning).
Karen: 206-817-3213 or SeattleHLA@gmail.com.

SPOKANE — 2nd Saturday 9:30 am
Spokane Nexus Center
1206 N. Howard, Spokane
Hearing assistance: amplification, induction loop, captioning.
Margaret 509-893-1472 or hlaspokane@gmail.com.

TACOMA — 2nd Saturday 9:30 am
(alternates with CI Support Group)
HLAA CHAPTER meets in Sept, Nov, Dec, Feb, Apr and Jun.
TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma
Hearing assistance: amplification, FM system, CART (real-time captioning).
Jerry: 253-686-1816 or
Penny: pennyallen@q.com

SOUTH SOUND COCHLEAR IMPLANT SUPPORT GROUP —
2nd Saturday, 9:30 am — Meets Oct, Jan, Mar, May, Jul.
TACID, 6315 S. 19th St. Tacoma
Hearing assistance: amplification, FM system, CART (real-time captioning).
Christine: Christine@cs-dhhrs.com or 253-256-4690.

WHATCOM CO. — 3rd Saturday 9:30 am
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church,
2600 Lakeway Dr., Bellingham
Hearing assistance: amplification, induction loop and CART (real-time captioning).
Charlene: 360-738-3756 or charmackenzie@comcast.net

Looking for a chapter?
Please contact us directly if you are interested in attending or if you’d like to start a chapter in your area. Karen, SeattleHLA@gmail.com or info@hearingloss-wa.org

Online Resources to Keep Informed

Bookmark the HLAA-WA website at hearingloss-wa.org for resources and information.

Like the HLAA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HearingLossAssociation.

Find out which venues are looped for your entertainment at www.loopseattle.org.

Hearing Loss Magazine is available online at www.hearingloss.org/membership/hearing-loss-magazine/current-issue.

Sign up for the HLAA monthly eNewsletter at www.hearingloss.org/content/e-news-sign.
CDC Study on Prevalence and Types of Disability

HLAA reacted quickly and strongly to a new study published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which did not include hearing loss among the disabilities studied. The study, “Prevalence of Disability and Disability Type Among Adults, US, 2013,” concluded that one out of every five adults has a disability and examined vision loss, cognition, mobility, self-care and independent living, but failed to study hearing loss.

In an August 7, 2015 press release on the study, HLAA said, “The CDC ignored 48 million Americans with hearing loss...Excluding people with hearing loss is not giving serious consideration to hearing loss as a disability that has an impact on a person’s quality of life, ability to work, and to fully participate in society.”

HLAA took rapid action by contacting multiple levels of government, including the White House, “to see that swift and meaningful steps are taken to correct this gross error.” HLAA notes that although the prevalence of hearing loss means that it ranks behind only diabetes and heart disease as a public health issue, “…the study fails to explain why...[it] failed to examine the prevalence of hearing loss.”

HLAA requested members to express their views on the CDC study, and reports that the response was overwhelming. The strong response supported HLAA’s efforts to engage with the CDC on this matter. By August 14, HLAA reported that “…[the] CDC has been responsive to our request and has opened up a dialog with us. HLAA will continue to work with CDC.”

More information on the CDC study and HLAA’s reaction can be found at http://hearingloss.org/content/hlaa-outraged-cdc-ignoring-ppl-hearing-loss.

HLAA’s update on the response is at http://17291.thankyou4caring.org/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=4603249&trid=5fe70ea1-975b-4b90-b2df-188b303d7e70

HLAA Supports the HEAR Act

The Help Extend Auditory Relief (HEAR) Act was reintroduced on June 12, 2015 by U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright of Pennsylvania. The HEAR Act—H.R 2748—first introduced by Rep. Cartwright in 2013, was reintroduced with the support of 10 members of Congress.

The HEAR Act would amend Medicare to include coverage for hearing rehabilitation, including hearing tests and hearing aids. Medicare currently excludes coverage for hearing aids and for examinations for prescribing, fitting, or changing hearing aids.

Please see more information about the HEAR Act and HLAA’s letter in support of the legislation, which is quoted on Rep. Cartwright’s website, at http://www.hearingloss.org/content/medicaremedicaid#hr2748.

Survey of Local News Captioning

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continues to examine the quality of closed captions in television programming. Broadcasters in smaller markets are permitted to use the Electronic Newsroom Technique (ENT) for captions, including for local news programming. ENT allows using teleprompter scripts as the source of captions, but that implies that certain un-scripted live reports will not be captioned. As of June 30, 2014, the FCC began requiring users of the ENT technique to adopt additional procedures to enhance captioning under ENT, including the use of on-screen visual and textual information, training for staff, and appointment of ENT coordinators.

The FCC has required broadcasters to submit, by October 28, 2015, a written report about their experiences and success with the enhanced ENT rules. The report is to be produced in collaboration with consumer groups such as HLAA. In relation to the report, HLAA launched a consumer survey to examine the quality of ENT captioning on local news programming.

The survey results will be included as part of a report to the FCC that will result in consideration of further changes to ENT rules. More information on FCC rules for captioning can be found at https://www.fcc.gov/guides/closed-captioning.
there, along with several other HLAA-WA members. Bob Branigin, who has been to every HLAA national convention over the 35 years of the organization, was there once again!

The convention, held at the very historic Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, offered endless opportunities to absorb information about hearing loss.

Every convention venue was looped, and CART (real-time captioning) was also available in all the venues. The loops were particularly impressive, as I never found a “dead” spot and didn’t have to position myself in a particular way to be able to hear and understand. Most speakers and audience members (asking questions) observed good microphone etiquette, and anyone who slipped quickly received a reminder to do better. It all made for a consistently excellent hearing experience!

HLAA-WA Board member Sandra Bunning agreed that hearing access at the conventions has improved. She said, “Technology at the convention was the best thing for me...no neckloops...no FM system...no tangled wires in the convention tote. Looped rooms, a click of my remote to switch programs in my CI processor, and a finger tap to my hearing aid, and I could hear and understand everything that was being said over the microphone. Sure beats my first convention—amplification without telecoils.”

The hardest thing about the convention was choosing among all the ways to spend time—five different workshop tracks meant there were as many as five very interesting presentations going on at any one time, while all day long the “demo” room was hosting talks about products and services that enable people to hear better and understand. All sorts of experts—medical doctors, scientists, audiologists and many others—spoke about many aspects of hearing loss and how to deal with hearing-related challenges.

Getting from one talk to another often meant walking through the exhibit hall filled with the booths of hearing aid and cochlear implant makers, assistive technology manufacturers and vendors, and many other companies involved with hearing-related products and services. The temptation was to do nothing but visit booths and ask questions. Looking back, the cleverest vendor may have been Hamilton Captel, which gave out free step counters to people so they could track how far they walked

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during the convention. The convention was also a great opportunity to hear about what HLAA is doing nationally to educate, advocate and provide information related to hearing loss. I was impressed that so many HLAA members in so many states are doing their part to educate, support and advocate on behalf of people with hearing loss. I also participated in several sessions oriented to making HLAA an even more effective organization, and picked the brains of several HLAA leaders from other states.

The convention would have been valuable to me just for meeting people from all over the country, each with their own story about hearing loss and lots to tell about how they have managed their particular hearing challenges. HLAA-WA member Maridee Garvey agreed, saying, “It was so interesting talking with other hard of hearing people from all walks of life and from so many different parts of the country. There were many people who are late deafened, but also many who lost their hearing at a young age, as did I.”

As I expected, the convention was a place filled with people for whom struggling to hear is the norm, so asking people to repeat things, or to move to a quieter spot, or to put my remote microphone on their lapel, was natural and easy.

In addition to all the learning, many people went to a Cardinals-Cubs baseball game at beautiful Busch Stadium and enjoyed a tight game that went into extra innings. Kathy Buckley, a well-known comedian challenged by her hearing loss since childhood, was the featured entertainment at the Saturday evening banquet, and took everyone on an emotional roller coaster. We laughed hard, but also absorbed her poignant comments related to her own experiences with hearing loss.

Many people came away from the convention saying their favorite speaker was former Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, who accepted HLAA’s Advocacy Hall of Fame award and entertained everyone with very perceptive remarks about advocacy and politics, and about his personal experience with hearing loss.

The 2016 national HLAA convention will be in Washington D.C. next June. It will be held in conjunction with the Congress of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People. I plan to be there!
sound system. When the public address system sends a signal to the loudspeakers in the room, a signal also is wirelessly transmitted to the telecoils found in most hearing aids and cochlear implants (CIs) processors. The telecoils customize the sound for each user, and background noise and reverberation are minimized. The loop eliminates the need for people who wear hearing aids and CIs to make advance requests for assistive listening devices. Headsets and receivers are available for those needing help hearing who do not have personal hearing devices.

Discussion about looping the Council chambers began in 2012, with Cheri Perazzoli actively seeking high priority for this project. After significant delays related to the design and scope of the loop project, the 2015 Seattle Mayor’s budget finally appropriated funds for the design and installation. The new induction loop became operational in August 2015.

On September 3, more than 25 people gathered at Seattle City Hall to test the newly-installed loop. Among those asked to participate were several HLAA-WA members, including President Karen Utter and Cheri Perazzoli. Monica Martinez Simmons, Seattle City Clerk, welcomed everyone. Bill Chalfant of Avidex Industries—which installed the loop system—then explained the loop design and installation. He highlighted that design enhancements allowed for installation of the loop without temporary removal of the many rows of seats in the chambers and with limited impact on the carpet and flooring.

Those of us in attendance switched on our telecoils and moved throughout the chambers to test the system. We randomly sat in chairs in various locations and walked along the perimeter of the room, while other people spoke into each of the microphones in the chambers. We all completed a rating sheet about the clarity and volume of the sound in different locations in the room. Mr. Chalfant indicated that Avidex would tweak the loop system based on the feedback received.

The feedback on the loop system was very positive. Testers found that they could hear and understand what was being said into the microphones, irrespective of where they were sitting or standing in the chambers. We also didn’t need to find a particular head position for our telecoils to effectively capture the sound, as sometimes happens with loop installations. For those without

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telecoils in their hearing aids or cochlear implants, handheld loop receivers and headphones will be available at all Council meetings. Signage about the availability of the loop is posted at the entrance to the chambers.

Cheri Perazzoli, in her joint roles as HLAA-WA Director of Advocacy and Director of the Let’s Loop Seattle campaign, was key to bringing together multiple government offices and entities, as well as other non-profits, so that design complexities and funding priorities eventually were overcome. I have closely followed the evolution of the loop project for the Council chambers, and have seen the positive results of Cheri’s well-prepared and credible presentations about the value of induction loops.

Cheri’s attendance at many meetings, her constant building of bridges among interested parties, and years of advocacy, patience, and networking made this installation a reality. Cheri commented, “It takes a great deal of time doing all this relationship building! It’s been great fun, but honestly, there are not enough hours in the day to attend every meeting necessary to get people to realize hearing access needs to be built in, practiced and publicized.”

Cheri also highlighted that Councilmember Tom Rasmussen became a key advocate for the loop project within the City Council after he and his staff became aware of the objectives of the project. Together with Monica Martinez Simmons, Rasmussen guided the project through the municipal bureaucracy to completion.

The September/October 2015 issue of Hearing Loss Magazine (page 8) has a good article about the importance of consistency and endurance in coping with hearing loss. The loop installation in the Seattle City Council chambers is the result of just those traits. With this increased access, it is now our responsibility to get involved with civic affairs more actively. Find causes you care about, and start attending meetings in the Council chambers!

Moving on?
Each returned newsletter costs us $1.20!
Please help keep our costs down by letting us know when you move on or change your mailing address.

Swedish Audiology Services
We offer a full range of testing and treatment options for those with hearing-related problems and balance disorders, from infant through geriatric populations. Our audiologists work closely with otolaryngologists and neurologists within the Swedish network if a medical evaluation is warranted.

Services include:
- Hearing aid fitting and rehabilitation for infants through geriatrics
- Bluetooth streaming options and assistive listening devices
- Cochlear implant services and research
- Bone anchored implant services (Baha)
- Comprehensive diagnostic testing including electro-physiologic evaluation, ABR and vestibular testing

Locations:

Center for Hearing & Skull Base Surgery
Swedish Neuroscience Institute
500 17th Ave., Suite 520
Seattle, WA 98122
T 206-215-4327

Swedish Otolaryngology-Audiology
Seattle
600 Broadway
Suite 230
Seattle, WA 98122
T 206-215-1770

Issaquah
751 NE Blakely Drive
Suite 5010
Issaquah, WA 98029
T 425-313-7089

Ballard
1801 NW Market St.
Suite 411
Seattle, WA 98107
T 206-781-6072

Minor & James Audiology
Seattle
515 Minor Ave., Suite 150
Seattle, WA 98104
T 206-622-9916

Bellevue
1200 112th Ave. NE, Suite B250
Bellevue, WA 98004
T 425-462-1132

www.swedish.org/audiology
Bob notes that since the fourth HLAA national convention in Bethesda in 1989, Rocky always found time in his busy schedule to have breakfast or lunch with him. Finding a kinship with other hard of hearing people, Bob joined SHHH shortly after first becoming aware of the organization, and he’s been faithful to SHHH/HLAA ever since. Bob was a member of the original Seattle SHHH chapter, and when it closed he joined the Sno-King Chapter at its initial meeting. That chapter was active for over 12 years, and Bob today actively participates in the Seattle HLAA meetings in the Northgate area.

After other employment with the City of Seattle, Bob worked for nearly 20 years at Seattle City Light, retiring in 1999. He attended the first HLAA national convention, in Chicago, in 1984. His supervisor at Seattle City Light, after hearing about Bob’s excellent experience at the Chicago convention, decided to send Bob to the conventions at Stanford University in 1986 and Rochester, NY in 1988. Bob recalls, “I wrote glowing reports about those conventions, and Seattle City Light sent me to every annual HLAA convention after that until my retirement in 1999.” Others have recognized Bob’s loyalty and dedication.

Deanna Baker, a former Seattle resident, HLAA Board Member and one of the initial CART providers for HLAA Conventions, founded the Bob Branigin Scholarship Fund through HLAA. This Fund supports people who might otherwise not be able to attend a national HLAA Convention. Bob’s enduring dedication and attendance now paves the way for others. We’re so proud to have him in our midst!
Many Thanks to Our Sound Waves Donors!

In addition to faithfully paying the small subscription fee for our Sound Waves newsletter, the individuals listed below also included a donation in support of the newsletter. Many thanks to all of you!

HLAA-WA works hard to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support. We are an all-volunteer organization and your donations will allow us to continue our work by helping pay for printing and mailing costs. On behalf of HLAA-WA, thank you for your support!

— Karen Utter, President of HLAA-WA

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2015 HLAA-WA Board of Trustees

We serve as an extension of HLAA in an effort to make hearing loss an issue of concern within our state by promoting the HLAA philosophy of self-help while specifically addressing the issues of awareness, education, access and employment among our citizens who are hard of hearing.

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We welcome articles, letters, and notices of coming events. We may abbreviate submissions due to space constraints. Any content may be reprinted or disseminated, as long as the author or this publication is credited. We encourage health and service professionals to make copies available to their clients. Submission deadlines are April 1, July 1, October 1 and February 1.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of HLAA-WA or HLAA. Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement; nor does exclusion suggest disapproval.

Please contact us about advertising rates. Questions about this newsletter may be addressed to editor@hearingloss-wa.org.
Sound Waves
Fall 2015

A quarterly publication of the
Hearing Loss Association of America, Washington State Association

Mission Statement:
To open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

IT’S FALL AGAIN:
HLAA LOCAL CHAPTERS ARE MEETING

Our chapters are communities of people with hearing loss who understand you and are empathetic to your unique problems;

We empower you through exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences, and we provide encouragement;

We help you deal with the social stigma often associated with hearing loss, and we will help you understand your legal rights as a person with a hearing loss.

Come learn coping and communication strategies for this busy, noisy world;

Come learn how to stay tuned into family conversations, and how to manage with hearing loss while traveling;

Come learn about technologies that will enhance your ability to function, beyond hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Please see page 4 of this newsletter for detailed information about a HLAA local chapter near you!