Bruce Rafford Awarded Governor’s Trophy

Long-time HLAA member Bruce Rafford was awarded the 2015 Governor’s Trophy on October 30 by the Washington Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE). The award recognizes Bruce’s more than 20 years advocating throughout Washington State for people with disabilities to have improved access to places such as government offices, courtrooms, hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

Due to his own hearing loss, Bruce has focused much of his work on hearing access, but many people with other disabilities also have benefited from his tenacious advocacy work. Since moving to eastern Washington, Bruce has extended his community advocacy efforts to parts of Idaho.

Bruce was nominated for the award by the HLAA Spokane Chapter. Among many other comments, the nomination noted that Bruce has “[left] an extensive network of access improvements benefiting thousands of people with disabilities in every part of the State, [most of] whom will most likely never know his name, or what they owe to him.”

HLAA-WA Joins Push for Medicaid Coverage of Adult Hearing Devices

The Board of Trustees of HLAA-WA has voted to join other organizations in advocating for adult hearing device coverage to be restored to Washington State’s Medicaid program. Medicaid, funded jointly by federal and state governments, covers health-related services to eligible low-income individuals of all ages. (Medicare, a separate federal government program, provides health insurance to individuals 65 and over, and to people with disabilities.)

As of January 1, 2011, the Washington State Medicaid program stopped paying for hearing aids and cochlear implants (CIs) for people over the age of 20. Medicaid also stopped paying for the cost of maintaining, repairing and upgrading devices for people who already have hearing aids or CIs, and for professional aural rehabilitation services. Hearing aids typically have a useful life of up to five years, and the components and software of CIs are regularly improved by their manufacturers as technology evolves. Without financial assistance from Medicaid, maintaining, improving and replacing existing devices is beyond the reach of Medicaid recipients.

Hearing Loss Support Group at Arrowhead Gardens

I live at Arrowhead Gardens, a retirement community in West Seattle. A few months ago, one of our residents, Judi Carr, initiated a support/information group about hearing loss. Judi is an active member of the Hearing Loss Support Group at Arrowhead Gardens.
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New Arrowhead Gardens meeting shows the value of a hearing loss support group.

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Long-time advocate and HLAA member is recognized by the Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment.

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In This Issue

One Person Can Make a Difference!
By Karen Utter, President of HLAA-WA

My old friend and long-term HLAA (SHHH) member, Bruce Rafford, recently received a number of awards for his outreach and advocacy work on behalf of people with hearing loss. Bruce’s activism always includes a strong sense of his personal mission. His mission is that nobody with hearing loss should endure the incredible frustrations involved in navigating day-to-day activities and places which should be accessible to people with hearing loss but are not.

We are people with hearing loss, and we struggle with daily communication challenges. There is a range of communication options available to us, but we are often unwilling to speak up for ourselves to tell others what we need to communicate. Having relatively good speech hides our hearing loss, often rendering it virtually invisible! People see someone with a cochlear implant or hearing aid and figure the hearing issue is “fixed” when we don’t say something. That is where Bruce comes in!

Bruce’s hearing loss began early in life, but he overcame challenges and eventually went to work at Boeing. In the mid-1980s, he became one of the first CI recipients in the U.S. (If you see a picture of Bruce, you will notice he always wears a headband. It holds his CI in place, as the original CIs did not use a magnet to attach the processor to the implanted receiver.) Even with a CI, understanding sometimes remained a big challenge for Bruce. He asked for and received CART (captioning) for meetings, and Boeing got him other hearing help he needed to remain active.

Along the way, Bruce embarked on a career in outreach and advocacy work. His local court system would not accommodate his hearing loss, and it had neither the technology nor the means available to grant hearing access to anyone with hearing loss. In 1994, Bruce successfully filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice under the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). At that point he realized that speaking up, asking for access, and taking stronger action if needed, meant helping not just himself but also others.

As of 1996, outreach and advocacy became a regular activity for Bruce. After retiring from Boeing in 2004 and moving to Eastern Washington, outreach and advocacy became his focus. He reached out to countless places that should be accessible to people with hearing loss: courts, civic entities, schools, hospitals and many more. Bringing awareness of hearing loss throughout Washington State, and in parts of Idaho, was only his first step. He followed that up with determined steps to ensure that signage was appropriate and clear. He insisted that public meeting notices specifically mention ways to ask for hearing access ahead of time, and most of all that technology—FM sound systems, captioning, loops, whatever works—be available and in compliance with the ADA, so people can hear and understand.

Bruce has made a difference for us all, and he continues to do so to the best of his ability! Not everyone has the temperament and doggedness to do what Bruce does, but all of us should have a little of Bruce’s mission in us, and should not be afraid to insist that we be able to hear and understand what is going on in public places.
**seen and heard**

**hlaa-wa board members sandra bunning, judi carr and kimberly parker** represented hlaa-wa at the fall conference of the washington state senior citizen’s lobby (senior lobby) on october 28 in tacoma. senior lobby links numerous organizations which advocate for seniors.

kimberly presented to the conference on behalf of hlaa-wa, calling for senior lobby to push for restoration of adult hearing device coverage under washington state’s medicaid plan.

cheri perazzoli, hlaa-wa director of advocacy reports that the 2016 city of seattle budget includes funding to loop the bertha knight landes room, which is the large auditorium on the first floor of city hall in seattle. this follows on the successful looping of the main city council chambers at city hall in 2015.

as with recent looping of the council chambers, councilmember tom rasmussen was instrumental in persuading the city council to include this funding in the budget. a broader proposal to include loops for other meeting rooms at city hall was deferred, but obtaining funding to loop the large bertha knight landes room, where many public events are held, was a very positive result in the face of many competing budget priorities.

also, at the city council meeting of december 14, councilmember rasmussen presented a resolution which was unanimously approved by the council. the resolution expresses the city council’s intent to improve the accommodation of people with hearing disabilities in city facilities. it calls for employing the best technology feasible and for reporting on the accommodation of people with hearing disabilities in city facilities.

on behalf of hlaa-wa, and in recognition of his support of hearing access, cheri also recently presented councilmember rasmussen with a certificate of appreciation and trophy for “outstanding leadership in hearing access 2015.” mr. rasmussen is retiring from the seattle city council at the end of 2015. his tenacious support of hearing access will be missed, but the unanimous endorsement of the resolution at the december 14 meeting signals the full council’s support. seattle city clerk monica simmons, who coordinated the recent looping of the council chambers, also received an award from hlaa-wa.

hlaa-wa members ed belcher, jacqui metzger, devin myers, cheri perazzoli, karen utter and warren weissman attended the november 12 annual gala and awards dinner of the washington access fund.

the access fund, a non-profit organization, promotes access to technology and economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities in washington state. it has provided people with disabilities with over $2 million in microloans for the purchase of assistive technology devices, including hearing aids and other assistive listening devices. hearing devices represent about 40% of the access fund’s loans.

the access fund’s individual development account program matches the savings of low-income households dollar-for-dollar, allowing them to save for purchasing assistive devices and business equipment.

**hlaa’s spokane chapter** participated in the access spokane expo fair on october 29. more than 100 entities were at the fair, providing information and support to job seekers. hlaa’s participation in the expo was featured in the november 2015 newsletter of nexus inland nw.

nexus, formerly the eastern washington center for the deaf and hard of hearing, provides information about hearing issues and equipment, interpreter services, education and outreach workshops, and communication access advocacy.

hlaa president karen utter and sound waves editor warren weissman report a great hearing experience at town hall seattle’s october 15 presentation of former federal reserve chair ben bernanke discussing “how u.s. economic stability was restored” with former washington governor gary locke. since 2014, town hall seattle venues continued on page 4
The University of Washington (UW) will hold its next Experience Aural Rehabilitation (UW EAR) conference February 22-25, 2016. UW EAR, oriented to adults with hearing loss and their communication partners, focuses on strategies for coping with hearing loss and for improving communication in varied situations. Classes during the 4-day program also will discuss advancements in technologies related to managing hearing loss, including hearing aids and assistive listening devices.

UW EAR offers a mix of one-on-one and group learning opportunities for participants. The program is limited to 20 participants and staffed by faculty, researchers and graduate students of the UW Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. A personalized curriculum will be developed in advance of the program for each UW EAR participant, with each participant working with a graduate student partner supervised by professionals.

The most recent UW EAR program was in September, 2014, over three days. Based on participant feedback, the 2016 version will be a four-day program, still in an intensive, full-day format. In addition to individual sessions and group classes, the program includes opportunities to implement communications strategies in real-world situations with background noise and other challenges.

HLAA-WA members Ed Belcher, Maridee Garvey, Cheri Perazzoli and Warren Weissman attended the 2014 version of UW EAR. As recounted in an article in the Winter 2014 issue of Sound Waves, all of the HLAA-WA members found UW EAR a great opportunity to learn about communication strategies and technologies for coping with hearing challenges, and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to talk with other people with hearing loss.

UW EAR 2016 is managed by Professor Kelly Tremblay, Ph.D., who is an audiologist and the principal investigator of the Brain and Behavior Lab at UW. The program will be held at the Talaris Conference Center near the UW Seattle campus. Overnight accommodations may be requested by contacting the Talaris Conference Center.

A minimum donation of $150 will be requested from each participant in order to offset the cost of food and the facilities. For registration, Professor Tremblay can be reached at (206) 616-2479 or by email at tremblay@uw.edu.

**Seen and Heard** cont. from page 3

are looped, but the size of this event meant it was moved to the Campion Ballroom at Seattle University, which is not looped or equipped with other hearing assistive technology.

Upon inquiring with Town Hall producer Dana Feder about hearing access for the Bernanke event, Karen and Warren were offered the possibility of listening to the event with headphones plugged into the event sound board (where the sound engineer controls microphone levels and amplification). But using headphones meant Warren would not hear through his hearing aids and Karen would not hear through her cochlear implants. Thus, Warren proposed linking the same output cable from the sound board to his hearing aids and to Karen’s CI through streamers.

Town Hall staff agreed to try this, and sound engineer Luke Kehrwald linked Karen’s and Warren’s streamers to the sound board. This meant sitting in the back, next to the sound board, which is counter-intuitive for hard of hearing people accustomed to speech reading by sitting up front. But the sound clarity achieved by the direct connection to the sound board meant that Karen and Warren reported being able to hear AND understand 100% of what Bernanke and Locke were saying.

Karen said, “This was an unusual experience, and it would not be possible to do this for multiple people or in all settings, but it was great to be able to hear well and we were very grateful that Town Hall staff was creative in accommodating us.” She also noted, “This experience highlights the great benefits of a hearing loop, such as that installed by Town Hall, since everybody with a telecoil can be linked to the sound system.”

HLAA-WA Board member Sandra Bunning reminds us how thrilling it is to hear sounds that people without hearing loss might think of as purely annoying. She describes a recent experience: “How happy is a person to hear pounding, pounding? You know, the sound one end of a hammer makes when hitting a nail. I heard pounding on a recent Saturday morning, sitting in the room I call my cozy. We were not building or remodeling anything...the pounding, pounding continued. I walked out onto our deck, looked east and saw carpenters pounding. They were remodeling a garage up the hill, approximately 70 feet behind our property line. Is this why I got my cochlear implant? Yes it is! To hear. To hear everything.”
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 2:00 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, 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, 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.
Arrowhead Support Group  cont. from page 1

Association of America (HLAA), and a Vice President of the Board of HLAA in Washington State. As a long-time hearing aid user and more recently a cochlear implant recipient, she brings long experience and much knowledge to her leadership of this endeavor.

Finding time on our complex calendar is always a challenge, so having our residents show up consistently for the monthly meetings speaks well of the value of Judi’s presentations. She brings in guest lecturers and, always mindful of giving people with hearing loss a way to follow the conversation, procures students that are learning captioning to show real-time captions on screen during the meetings.

Each lecture features a different aspect of hearing loss. Starting in March, with a title of “You are Not Alone,” she emphasized that many people with hearing loss may not understand the nature and extent of their hearing difficulties, and that it is often reassuring to talk with other people about hearing challenges. Judi has taught us to let others know of the needs of a person with hearing loss, such as facing that person directly, so that he or she can use lip-reading skills to better understand what is said. In subsequent talks, we were introduced to a hearing assistance dog and its trainer. Another was on how to get a telephone compatible with the needs of people with hearing loss. Yet another was a speaker who demonstrated a series of hearing devices that are less costly than hearing aids but will still provide users with significant hearing assistance. At another talk, we learned to be more prepared with emergency instructions and equipment in case we need to go to a hospital. Among future presenters, there will be an audiologist who will discuss developments in hearing aids.

My own hearing is adequate, but I attend the support and information group for future reference, and to learn more about supporting friends and relatives who have hearing loss. Learning about communication strategies and about the wide range of available technology has been very useful. Even though many people do need the sophisticated instruments fitted by professional audiologists, it is good to know there are alternatives for those of us who do not yet need, or cannot afford, these devices.

A core group of us attend all the sessions, and other Arrowhead residents attend some of the meetings. Core continued on page 7
participant Laura Ramsey explains how she is benefiting from what she is learning: “As we age, it’s ‘patch, patch, patch.’ I found that hearing is in that category. Because I have neither the money nor the desire to get hearing aids, I add ‘say again’ to most of my vocabulary. Then Judi Carr created our hearing support group and encouraged me to participate. These sessions have opened up an entire new world for me.”

Laura adds, “I discovered a large range of technological advancement in hearing support. It is pure delight to attend a meeting where I can hear every word, thanks to the presentation techniques used during the sessions. As my budget permits, I’ll be taking advantage of some of the new equipment I now know exists. Accompanied by my newfound knowledge on ways to minimize my hearing loss, I hope to drop ‘say again’ from my vocabulary!”

Judi says her aim in leading these meetings is, “to teach people with hearing loss how to live better. My challenge is finding topics that will interest people and will help them. People often don’t realize or want to admit that they have a hearing loss.”

Judi explains that generating interest is a challenge because, “people want to be entertained. Since there are so many other activities at Arrowhead, where we live, that is a challenge each time.” She also says she works hard to organize each meeting because “A support group needs a leader to put the meetings together and keep them going. I need to confirm a meeting place and gather equipment for each meeting. I keep a list of participants, and call each person the day before.”

Judi obtains much of the information used in the meetings from HLAA, linking us to all the work being done by a national organization. Those of us who attend regularly hope she can continue to instruct us with new innovations and ways to receive help with our ongoing hearing challenges.

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.
Medicaid Push  cont. from page 1

Audiology exams and medical treatment of the ear for people over the age of 20 are still covered by Medicaid, and hearing aids and cochlear implants are covered for all individuals with developmental disabilities. Coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants for people over the age of 20 was dropped as of the end of 2010 from Washington State’s Medicaid program due to budgetary priorities.

Hearing Devices Promote Quality of Life

According to the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), “About 2 percent of adults aged 45 to 54 have disabling hearing loss. The rate increases to 8.5 percent for adults aged 55 to 64. Nearly 25 percent of those aged 65 to 74 and 50 percent of those who are 75 and older have disabling hearing loss.” Hearing loss deeply affects our lives. Not only does it affect our ability to communicate and understand, but it affects our ability to socialize, to interact with co-workers, to be entertained, and to participate in civic and cultural affairs. A number of studies have shown that hearing loss is also associated with depression, social isolation, and decreased independence. Hearing loss is also thought to be associated with cognitive decline, based on recent research.

Hearing aids and cochlear implants improve the ability of people with hearing loss to hear and understand. At a minimum, individuals are more productive and have better quality of life if they can manage or overcome hearing challenges by using hearing aids or receiving cochlear implants. Numerous assistive listening devices, such as remote microphones, are now available, and are increasingly effective if paired with hearing aids or cochlear implants. And researchers are investigating whether hearing treatment can do more than increase our ability to hear and understand. Some recent research gives support to the theory that treatment of hearing loss can reduce or prevent cognitive decline.

High cost prevents many persons from acquiring hearing aids or receiving cochlear implants. Obviously, this barrier affects low-income individuals with hearing loss more than other people, and the lack of coverage through Medicaid leaves a significant segment of the population exposed to the severe consequences of untreated hearing loss. Seniors on Medicaid are particularly affected, since they have very little financial ability to pay for hearing aids (Medicare continued on page 9
also does not cover hearing aids, but does cover cochlear implants for eligible individuals).

Due to the severe consequences of untreated hearing loss, several organizations have joined forces to advocate for restoration of adult hearing device coverage under Washington State’s Medicaid plan. Among the organizations with which HLAA-WA has joined forces are the American Association of Retired People (AARP), Bellevue Network on Aging, Elder Care Alliance, Kirkland Senior Council, Washington Access Fund and the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A).

The effort also focuses on improving pre-2011 coverage by making reimbursement for bilateral hearing aids, if recommended by a hearing professional, the standard coverage (under pre-2011 coverage, a second hearing aid was provided only in exceptional cases).

**What YOU Can Do to Support Restored Coverage**

As of January 2015, 26 states, but not Washington State, covered adult hearing devices under Medicaid. What can YOU do to support restoration of adult hearing device coverage under Medicaid? Write to your State legislator! If legislators don’t hear from you, revenue constraints, competing budget priorities, and the short length of the 2016 legislative session will make restoring coverage very challenging. The following link will assist you in contacting your legislators: [http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/](http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/).

Also, bring heightened awareness by talking about this issue wherever you are able, so that hearing healthcare is accessible and affordable for all Washingtonians!

The information contained above, and an article entitled “Restore Medicaid Coverage of Hearing Benefits for Adults,” to be posted on the HLAA-WA website, will be helpful to you. The article will also include links to other information resources on this subject.

At the federal level, there are also several pending legislative proposals to improve coverage for hearing healthcare and hearing devices through changes in Medicare and new tax credits. Information on all of the initiatives at the national level is available on the HLAA national website at [http://hearingloss.org/content/medicaremedicaid](http://hearingloss.org/content/medicaremedicaid).

Finally, if you want up-to-date information on Medicaid coverage of hearing devices in Washington State, please contact Diana Thompson at dianaft21@yahoo.com.
HLAA Endorses PCAST Conclusions

HLAA enthusiastically endorsed a report issued by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) on October 27, 2015. The report, titled “Aging America & Hearing Loss: Imperative of Improved Technologies,” provides recommendations to President Obama about opening the market for new innovation in hearing device technologies and increasing choice for consumers of hearing aids. These are strategies long supported by HLAA to enhance hearing health care.

PCAST made the following specific recommendations:

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should approve a distinct class of hearing aids for over-the-counter (OTC) sales, without the current requirement for consultation with a “credentialed dispenser.”
- The FDA should withdraw its draft guidance (issued in 2013) on Personal Sound Amplification Products (PSAPs). The guidance forbids manufacturers of PSAPs, wearable consumer electronic devices intended for non-hearing impaired people, from making truthful claims about the functionality of a device in certain situations, because those claims could label the device a "hearing aid."
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) should require hearing aid dispensers who perform standard hearing tests and hearing aid fittings to provide customers with a copy of their results at no additional cost and in a format usable by other dispensers and vendors.
- The FTC should define a process to authorize hearing aid vendors to obtain a copy of a customer’s hearing test results, and programmable audio profile, from any audiologist who performs such a test, and to do so at no additional cost to the customer.

In a letter dated November 12, 2015, the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA) applauded the PCAST report and broadly supported its conclusions, while noting the many complexities of providing hearing health care. The PCAST report, ADA letter and related information are available at http://hearingloss.org/content/academy-doctors-audiology-applaud-pcast-report-otc-hearing-aids
HLAA-WA Elects New Trustees and Board Officers for 2016

HLAA-WA’s Board of Trustees elected three new Trustees and re-elected two existing Trustees at its annual meeting on November 7, 2015. A new slate of officers for calendar 2016 was also voted in by the Board of Trustees.

In addition to asking Karen Utter to remain as President for one final year, the Board elected three new Vice Presidents.

- The Vice President—Administration will be responsible for managing and coordinating HLAA-WA’s office activities, including the HLAA-WA calendar of events.
- The Vice President—Outreach will focus on disseminating information about HLAA-WA and raising the public profile of HLAA-WA.
- The Vice President—Communications will edit the HLAA-WA newsletter, manage the email system, and will assist the organization’s Webmaster.

President Karen Utter will continue to represent HLAA-WA with other organizations and at public events, and will also be a key link with the HLAA chapters and other meetings throughout Washington State. She will continue to promote the cohesiveness and effectiveness of the organization with the benefit of her long experience in many leadership positions with HLAA-WA.

Director of Advocacy Cheri Perazzoli will continue in that capacity during 2016 and remains a member of the Executive Committee. Secretary Don Gischer also accepted a renewed appointment for 2016. Treasurer Rick Faunt will step down at the end of his 2015 term, and HLAA-WA shortly will announce appointment of a new Treasurer.

2016 HLAA-WA Board of Trustees

We are 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 people who are hard of hearing. Trustees newly-elected at the November annual meeting are marked with “*”

Executive Committee 2016

President: Karen Utter, Edmonds
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  Administration—Judi Carr, West Seattle
  Outreach—Kimberly Parker, Poulsbo
  Communications—Warren Weissman, Seattle*
Secretary: Don Gischer, Bellingham
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Sound Waves is a quarterly publication of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Washington State Association (HLAA-WA), 4820 156th PL, SW Edmonds, WA 98026-4846.

Newsletters are published and distributed in September, December, March, and June, and can also be read online, allowing for live linking to email addresses and online resources, or downloaded free from http://hearingloss-wa.org/sound-waves-newsletter.

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 opportunities and rates. Questions about this newsletter may be addressed to editor@hearingloss-wa.org.
REGISTER NOW FOR HLAA CONVENTION 2016

HLAA’s Convention 2016 EARLY registration is now OPEN!
The 2016 Convention will be held in Washington, DC, and will be a joint event with the Congress of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH).
Sign up early and reserve your room in the convention hotel!

June 23-26
Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, DC

Convention 2016 Registration is Open
Register early for the greatest registration discounts!
Be certain to review the packages carefully to determine which is the right one for you. Early-bird registration prices are good through January 31, 2016.
See the registration page online, and find all the details at http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention

HLAA-WA will offer two 2016 Convention Scholarships to assist Washington State members in attending the upcoming convention. Please see more information and the application form online at www.hearingloss-wa.org or email info@hearingloss-wa.org to receive an application.

We look forward to seeing YOU in Washington, DC!