How to get what you want—or if you can't join 'em, lick 'em!
By Bert Lederer, Bellingham

Walt Kelly, creator of Pogo, first used the quote "We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us" on a poster for Earth Day in 1970. To this day the poster, subsequently quoted by Pogo himself, reminds me of the vast number of my 35 million fellow hard of hearing Americans who don't stand up for their right to accessibility in the hearing world. I sometimes grieve about the countless more that are in denial and don't have a clue about either their hearing loss problem or their rights.

We are the most discriminated against group of people with disabilities in the United States, not only in terms of our legal rights, but in our family and social circles. We are denied access to everyday dialogue by being ignored, perceived as inattentive and stupid, or victims of others' insensitivity and/or impatience. (Question: "Could you repeat what your just said, please? Answer: "Oh, never mind.") To quote Yul Brynner, "Etc., etc., etc.") It amounts to pure and not too simple exclusion.

So let's stop sitting around crying in our bottled water and stand up for our rights! The first order of business is a bit of self-assessment.

We should ask ourselves the basic question: Where, when, and how in public have we felt excluded or actually been excluded because of our hearing loss? In a brainstorming session last year during a chapter meeting in Bellingham, the group listed over 24 places in less than five minutes—restaurants, movie and live theaters, hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, museums, courtrooms, government meetings, libraries, senior centers, churches, airplanes, buses, trains, airports, stations, travel agencies, group meetings, and on and on!

So what are we going to do about it? How are we going to get included and feel right about it? Well, we've all heard about the AAA, but roadside service isn't going to help us. So how about the AAAA: Advocacy, Assertiveness, Access, Action?

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Advocacy involves identifying ways to be included, speaking out, and educating and sensitizing others to our needs and rights. Advocacy requires assertiveness to gain access and, if all else fails, taking action—including third party intervention, such as filing formal complaints and legal action. This is difficult for many of us to do because we have a tendency to stay in our comfort zones. But advocacy efforts are well worthwhile because successful results mean inclusion and acceptance, vis-à-vis exclusion and rejection.

Assertiveness means affirming, declaring, stating our convictions positively and with reason. When we do this, we tend to invite positive, open, and reasoned responses. Assertiveness is quite different from aggressiveness, which suggests hostility, threat, and anger. It’s natural to get angry when we are frustrated about being excluded and discriminated against. But anger gets us nowhere. In fact, it invites resentment and defensiveness, which often generates negative reaction, loss of the “message,” further exclusion, and adversarial relationships.

Access involves bridging barriers, not letting our limitations get us down, keeping our motivation up, and protecting our self-esteem! By gaining access, we can participate—limitations or not. The Hearing Loss Association of America has clearly stated, “Accessibility for people with hearing loss means being able to hear and understand communication and an audio signal in whatever form it takes: face-to-face, one-on-one, and in groups; over the telephone; public address announcements; recorded sound: TV, radio, movies, internet based; amplified sound: theater, public presentations; alerting and emergency notifications.”

Here are some questions to determine accessibility, which we can modify to meet our personal needs. Is there sound amplification? Are assistive listening devices available with neckloops for our hearing aid or implant telecoils? Is captioning available? Are there visual alarms for emergency situations? Are there amplified phones or TTYs? There are other questions, of course, depending on the situation. The important consideration is to plan ahead and make sure we will have access.

Action means doing something about it—standing up for our rights! We should never avoid participating because of our hearing loss. Nor should we hesitate to ask for what we need. Most of all, we should not let frustration and anger get in our way.

A basic prerequisite to taking action is to know and understand our rights and entitlements and resources available to help us take action to gain access. We are fortunate in this regard to live in Washington, where our state law against discrimination clearly includes people with hearing loss and those of us who have hearing dogs. The law requires that we have equal access to all public facilities. Our state law is stronger and more easily enforceable than the Americans with Disabilities Act!

Also, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guarantees us access to all Federal Government public activities and organizations that receive federal funding. Section 508 even requires that all audio visual presentations be audio-described, as well as captioned!

Now what if our rights are denied even after a concerted effort to request access, define our needs, and educate others? Take action! Get help and file a complaint! There are several ways to seek redress and obtain accommodations required by law, but some are more effective than others. In this regard we should seek legal advice. A highly effective legal resource is now available to us. We have published articles here in Sound Waves about the Washington Communications Access Project (Wash-CAP) which, through its Counsel and Advocacy Director John Waldo, has been phenomenally successful in obtaining access for us in live theaters, the state ferry system, and sports areas, among other venues. John, a Trustee of the Hearing Loss Association of Washington, is the only attorney we are aware of who is involved in advocacy on our behalf and specializes in cases involving hard of hearing and deaf people. Be sure to contact John if you believe your rights have been denied or have questions about legal requirements concerning accessibility.

Editor: Bert is President of Wash-CAP. You can e-mail him at bertlederer@msn.com.
Skype
Would you like to see the person on the other end of the line as he or she talks to you? Download the free video call program called Skype. You'll need a computer with a camera (called webcam) and microphone. Unlike the latest models, our laptop lacked these. We purchased a webcam with microphone from Amazon (also available from the Skype store as well as other technology vendors). It easily connected to our laptop USB port. Calls to other Skype users in are free. The other user obviously must have similar equipment. We called our daughter in LA, saw her, her husband, and our grandson with his stuffed bear. I was amazed by both the images and sound. If there's a lot of movement, the images can be slow or somewhat scrambled, and a face too close is distorted. Seeing speech made the call so much more relaxing than my audio calls. Be warned though, they see you too!

Emily Mandelbaum,
Port Townsend
(mandelbaum@olympus.net)

Kindle
When you get a cochlear implant, you become very clear on the role the brain plays in hearing.

Why? Because you have to retrain your brain! Unless you lost your hearing suddenly yesterday, you have to use sound the brain will recognize, either something it already knows really well (nursery rhymes, etc.) or something you can listen to along with text. For awhile I borrowed books on CD and the matching print book from the library for my practice listening. But this was bulky, hard to find my place if I stopped reading, and a limited choice at my publicly-funded library branch. Then I recently discovered Amazon Kindle's text-to-speech feature. My lovely family gifted me with an Amazon Kindle.

(Continued on page 4)
Kindle 2 e-book reader for my 60th birthday. Before you pooh-pooh away this expensive little gadget ($300 from www.amazon.com), please be aware that somewhere around one-third of the 300,000 titles that Amazon “sells” for the Kindle are absolutely free. Thousands more are available for $1 or less. Amazon also sells newspapers and magazines from around the world and across the country, including the Seattle Times.

Using the experimental text-to-speech feature produces a voice version of anything you’re reading, including the newspaper. You can adjust the volume, adjust the speed of the voice, and choose male or female. And yes, it screws up. It’s experimental, after all. Once in a while it will read the background formatting. Some words with multiple pronunciations (lead and read come immediately to mind) may not be pronounced correctly. Other uncommon words or misspelled words can be mispronounced—and on really long books, the Kindle will sometimes freeze up. Some hot titles have the text-to-speech feature turned off so they can sell books on tape separately.

Oh, by the way, the Kindle turns the page for you as it reads. My final verdict—it may not be for everyone, but I just love my Kindle 2 and just love its text-to-speech feature! Out of a possible 4 stars I give it 6!

Lona Jennings, Federal Way
(loneybaloney@msn.com)

Traffic Stop
It was Mother’s Day. I was using my “in transit” hearing devices—a Pocketalker with a directional microphone. In use, I turn the volume way down and my wife, Susie, holds the directional mike close and speaks in a conversational tone. The sum of all inputs is background noise at a low level and her voice about 10 db higher. The closer she holds the mike to her mouth, the better the isolation from the road noise.

We were discussing something important as I pulled on to the highway—without signaling. Normally I do signal, but the nearest car was more than 1/4 mile away, so I neglected it. A State Trooper soon fell in behind me, and then came blue lights. We all came to a stop on the shoulder.

She came up on my right side, and Susie rolled down the window. The Trooper began to talk. Susie saw that I was not understanding, so she raised the directional

(Continued on page 5)
microphone from her lap and pointed it toward the Trooper. The mike is a tube about a half-inch in diameter, 10 inches long, and black. Luckily the Trooper’s eyes widened before she reached for her sidearm. Susie saw that and said, “This is a microphone,” pointing it in the air and waving it around. “He is hearing impaired.” The Trooper appeared to breathe normally again, and asked if I could hear her NOW. I replied that I could if she spoke toward the microphone. She said she pulled me over because I had failed to signal when I moved from the ON ramp to the traffic lane. Then she asked for my driver’s license. I reached into my pocket for my wallet and, to my horror, the pocket was empty. The wallet was in my jeans at home. The trooper asked me if I knew I should not be driving unless I had my license on my person. I said, “Yes, I know that...as I also know I should not be taking my wife out on Mother’s Day without any money in my pocket. Bad mistakes.” She chuckled, let me off with a warning, and stopped me when I tried to get out to change seats so Susie, with license, could drive. “It is Mother’s Day,” she said. “And it is OK if you drive—just be careful to use your turn signal.”

Ben Gilbert Community Conference
September 26, 8:30 am -12:30 pm

Free attendance and parking. Continental breakfast and mid-morning refreshment provided. Key-note speaker: John Waldo, Founder of Washington State Communication Access Project. RSVP by September 22. ASL, CART, and FM provided (for FM, please bring your own neckloop if you have one). Location: Listen for Life Center at Virginia Mason, Lindeman Pavilion, Level 1, Volney Auditorium, 1201 Terry, Seattle 98101

Learn more about hearing loss advocacy groups, bilateral cochlear implants, cochlear implant accessories, Baha® (bone-anchored cochlear stimulator), assistive listening devices, and the latest in hearing aid advancements!

**NEW**: You do not need to pay/pre-pay for parking for this conference if you park in Virginia Mason Main Campus Garages. When you arrive, just let us know which garage you parked in and we will cover the parking fee for you. Directions and parking areas can be found at www.vmmc.org. (Click on Locations, then Seattle Main Clinic/Hospital, then Parking at Seattle Main Clinic.) Note: No elevator at Ninth Avenue Garage. Also, Lindeman Pavilion Garage is the most convenient but note: this garage fills FAST! IGNORE GARAGE ENTRY SIGNS THAT SAY “NO EVENT PARKING.” We are not responsible for parking fees in garages/ lots other than Virginia Mason Main Campus Garages.

To register, e-mail lsnforlife@vmmc.org with your name, your e-mail address, and your mailing address. Or call 206-223-8802/TTY, 206-223-6362/ Voice, or 206-223-2388/Fax. Or mail registration information to: The Listen For Life Center, 1100 9th Avenue, P.O. Box 900, MS X10-AU, Seattle, WA 98111.
Wash-CAP update  
By John Waldo, Bainbridge Island

Our efforts to make Washington a model of accessibility for people with hearing loss continue to move forward, as two other public facilities have added captioning to their array of accommodations.

The latest folks to say "yes" to Wash-CAP are Seattle Repertory Theatre and Seattle Arts and Lectures (SAL). Seattle Rep will be offering one captioned performance of each of its offerings at the Bagley Wright Theatre – its main stage.

Seattle Arts and Lectures will caption five of its lectures by prominent authors.

At Seattle Rep, the captions will be prepared in advance, then displayed on a portable reader-board visible from one section of the theater, where those of us who need captions will be seated. An operator will display the captions in sync with the performance.

For the author lectures at Benaroya Hall, a live captioner will transcribe the author’s remarks and the impromptu questions and answers, and the captions will be displayed on an overhead banner visible from anywhere in the hall.

The growing calendar of captioned lively arts in Seattle now looks like this:

- Aug. 12: Catch Me If You Can, 5th Ave.
- Sept. 27: Wicked," Paramount
- Oct. 1: 39 Steps, Seattle Rep
- Oct. 7: Annie Proulx, SAL
- Nov. 1: August, Osage County, Paramount
- Dec. 1: Richard Price, SAL
- Dec. 3: Equivocation, Seattle Rep
- Dec. 27: White Christmas, 5th Ave.
- Jan. 12: Jane and Michael Stern, SAL
- Feb. 11: Glengerry Glenn Ross, Seattle Rep
- Feb. 20: South Pacific, 5th Ave.
- March 5: Legally Blonde, 5th Ave.
- March 9: Michael Chabon, SAL
- April 1: Fences, Seattle Rep
- April 23: On the Town, 5th Ave.
- May 3: Dr. Atul Gawande, SAL
- June 2: Candide, 5th Ave.


We appreciate your support!

Your donations help us fund projects that benefit people with hearing loss. We are especially grateful for our newsletter advertisers in this issue: Advanced Bionics; Audient; Cherri Hoyden, Au.D, CCC-A; Cochlear Americas; and John F. Waldo, Attorney at Law. Paid advertising helps us provide outreach newsletters to clinics, hospitals, and to be distributed at health fairs. The following contributions are for April 2009 through June 2009:

- Dale Becker, Richland
- Vicki Gaines, Athens GA
- Betty Ruble, Auburn

Safeco Insurance Employee Giving
- Mulushewa Asgehedom, Kent

Microsoft Match
- Mark and Susan Svancarek, Redmond

United Way
- Did you know you can make regular United Way contributions that help fund projects that benefit people in our state who have hearing loss? These readers have supported this newsletter throughout the year through United Way:
  - Erlene Little, Oak Harbor
  - Timmie Mauck, Poulsbo
  - John C. Robbins, Renton
  - Della Ramsden, Seattle
  - George Ross, Seattle
  - Lilia Smith, Camano Island
  - Beverly Ziarko, Kent
  - United Way Kitsap County, unknown donor

- Double your donation!
  - Please ask your employer if your company has a matching gifts program. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and this is an easy way to contribute.

(Continued on page 7)
Intiman Theatre had wanted to institute captioning, but did not get the funding it had requested from the Theatre Development Fund. We’re politely reminding Intiman that it may have to find a place for captioning in its own budget, and not treat it as an "extra" to add when additional funds become available. Meanwhile, though, Intiman is providing scripts and penlights to let us read along with the play.

Elsewhere, we continue trying to move a couple of almost immobile organizations—Washington State Ferries (WSF) and the corporate movie chains.

WSF is rather blithely ignoring the deadlines that were included in the court order that resolved our litigation, but has promised that by the end of August they would have a user-community meeting to present their plans for captioning the public address announcements made on the boats and at the terminals. We hope that by mid-fall we’ll see an actual installation schedule for a six-month test that will be conducted on the Bainbridge ferries and at the Bainbridge and Seattle terminals. If the test system passes muster, it will then be installed to the rest of the system.

We’re currently engaged in litigation with the movie exhibitors, asking them to expand their offerings of captioned films. The best way to describe where we are at the moment is to say we’re engaging in Games Lawyers Play, with the exhibitors trying to move as slowly as possible, and us trying to speed things along. While the lawsuit itself is limited to King County, we expect any resolution to set a pattern that will apply throughout the state.

The Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP) is a non-profit membership corporation dedicated to improving access to Washington’s public places for people with hearing loss. Membership is free and open to all—joining just requires an email to john@wash-cap.com with the word "membership" in the subject line. We prefer to work through communication, education and cooperation, but where those fail, Wash-CAP will go to court to implement the rights and protections contained in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the considerably more powerful Washington Law against Discrimination.

Wash-CAP is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors headed by President Bert Lederer from Bellingham. John Waldo, an attorney from Bainbridge Island who has a significant hearing loss, acts as Advocacy Director and Counsel.
Implant corner about cochlear implants

Don’t drag your feet
By Lona Jennings, Federal Way

For me, hearing loss has been a slow tragedy. I lost mine in snippets of pitches and decibels over 50 years. I had plenty of time to get used to the idea of a cochlear implant, research it in conversations with dozens of HLAA implantees, and even view the different devices at national HLAA conventions.

For a long time an implant was down the road waiting for me. Then it wasn’t down the road anymore. In 2002, I retired early. I couldn’t use the company’s digital phone system. Business meetings were a nightmare. In 2005, fellow writing class students graciously passed around my FM mike so I could join in. In 2007, family downgraded my hearing from really bad to totally hopeless. Who knows you if not family?

So I had a CI evaluation at Virginia Mason. It’s a test not too different from the standard hearing aid test. The big difference I learned after taking two such tests (and just barely missing qualifying) is that it’s best to take it easy in the test room. The test said I could understand and didn’t need an implant—but at home I understood only if I worked really hard.

Finally, I realized that the one led to the other. Working hard on listening in the test room made me work hard on listening at home. (Continued on page 9)

Tips for better hearing in noisy environments
By Linn T - Cochlear Staff (as posted on www.cochlearcommunity.com)

If you’re like me, there are some environments that I still have a lot of difficulty with: restaurants, public transportation, the office, parties. Reducing the Sensitivity helps shorten the distance that the microphone is picking up sound, but sometimes the background noise is still too loud.

With the Freedom processor, the programming software allows the audiologist to create a "mixing ratio" that can reduce the microphone input even more. You can have mixing ratios for telecoil (MT) use and separate mixing ratios for accessory use. Ratios range from 1:1 (equal input) up to 10:1 (10 times more input from the accessory (or Telecoil) than from the microphone.

For really noisy environments where you are trying to hear someone speak, having a Telecoil program that mixes with the microphone (MT) can be handy. You might choose a program designed for noisy environments (I use ADRO + ASC) that has a high telecoil mixing ratio such as 8:1 or 10:1. This will automatically reduce the microphone input so you pick up less environmental noise but still allows you to hear sounds that are closer to you.

I have a much louder MAP for telephone use with MT and a mixing ratio of 8:1. Since the telecoil input is much higher than the microphone input, I can hear very well on the telephone and the microphone is picking up less noise from my co-workers. I can still pick up sounds close to me so I usually keep my processor set on that program all day at work.

Mixing ratios are also handy for those times when you use an accessory such as the Freedom Personal Audio Cable or TV HiFi Cable. When either of these are connected to the Freedom processor, the microphone stays active. Let’s say I want to listen to my iPod on my train commute to work. Since the Freedom Personal Audio Cable is designed to mix with the microphone, I would still be picking up some environmental noise even when I lower the Sensitivity to "0". A 10:1 accessory mixing ratio reduces the input so I am hearing the music 10 times louder than what is coming through the microphone.

It only takes a moment for your audiologist to change the mixing ratio and you can experiment with different combinations on each program setting to find what works best for you. ☺
The test set the baseline. The next time I took the test I worked only as hard as I wanted to work at home. This time I qualified. I won’t bore you with the details of surgery—in at 9:00, out at 1:00. The only thing really interesting was my tendency to nosebleed if I tipped my head the wrong way. I didn’t even have a big, puffy bandage—just a clear spray-on bandage, an incision with some stitches where my left ear meets my skull, and a Vicodan-level ouchy when I laid on that side of my head.

So then we have the implant turn on ... disappointing. Somehow I’d expected to be among the tiny percentage who understood immediately, even though my left ear hadn’t heard worth beans for 50 years. (That’s why I picked it for the implant!) Then we have the first listening practice that night—book on tape with accompanying reading—and I understood! After that, the first birdsong—not a big deal for me. Kinda miss hearing crickets, though. Wish we had crickets in Federal Way. And then my favorite hearing milestone, my first squeaky shoes on the floor. Walking across the kitchen in my Crocs reminded me of a snake being strangled. I looked down, I scuffed my feet, I smiled. “Don’t drag your feet, Lona,” my mother used to say when I was growing up. Now I knew why. What a sound! What a sensation! What an implant!

Was the implant what I expected? Yeah, pretty much. Better, maybe. I don’t need my FM system to hear at church. If I sit in the right place, the pastor’s voice comes through just fine, thank you. It’s a bit like I slid back in time maybe 30 years when my hearing was just getting to the point where hearing aids were just around the corner—the sound a bit mushy but not too hard to understand.

I still need to practice listening. Unfortunately, I live alone so most of my listening is the TV using my room loop and the implant’s T-switch. My Freedom doesn’t have a great T-coil. Sort of moderately weak. Oh well, nothing’s perfect. My audiologist says many people can’t hear on the telephone using the processor T-switch setting. Thanks to the extensive TV listening practice, I do just fine. Just recently I discovered that listening to my Kindle was good practice too. (See Kindle, page 3.)

Editor: the telecoil can be adjusted on cochlear implant processors, just like on hearing aids. Please read “Tips...” on preceding page for more information on telecoils. E-mail Lona at loneybaloney@msn.com.
**Chapter Chatter**

Our state was again well represented at this past HLAA 30th Anniversary convention in Nashville. **Myrna Kain**, a long time SHHH/HLAA member was honored as a recipient of the Spirit of HLAA award. Her work on behalf of her Snohomish County Chapter has been outstanding and we applaud her efforts. Another long term member of SHHH/HLAA chapters in Washington and an active supporter of our activities is **Bob Branigin**, who has the distinction of being one of only a very few members nationwide who has attended and participated in every SHHH/HLAA convention ever held. This is quite an accomplishment and speaks highly of Bob’s dedication to our organization.

While many things remain the same, we cannot as an organization remain static. HLAA is changing with the times and using technology now available to break down communication barriers for people with hearing loss. Increasingly, our chapters rely on email to “get the word out” to communicate with our members and make information available quickly. We encourage everyone, whether they are in a chapter or not, to check out the HLAA national website www.hearingloss.org for the available Blogs, chat rooms and other information to help keep abreast of the changing opportunities that our organization offers. There is a new area for those young adults who may not have time to attend a meeting but can meet online to share experiences.

We encourage all interested people with hearing loss, their family, and friends to visit a chapter this fall and find out what we do. Visitors and guests are always welcome at all meetings and no prior notice is required. Just come!
Dear Hearing Loss Association of America member:
It’s time to elect your HLA-WA Board of Trustees who represent you. This year we are including this ballot in the newsletter, instead of in a separate mailing. There are five open elected three-year board positions this year. Vote for any or all nominees. Please take a few minutes to read the information on the candidates and then fill out, clip, and return this top portion. It should be postmarked by November 13.

☐ Rick Faunt
☐ Charlene MacKenzie
☐ Lilia Smith
☐ Matthew Springer
☐ John Waldo

Mail this portion in a stamped addressed envelope to Bert Lederer, Nominations Chair, 803 W. Indiana St., Bellingham, WA 98225. Your name and membership number will be on the backside of this coupon, and we need that number to verify you are member of HLAA. If it is not visible, please include your name and membership number. (Note: your membership number can be found on the cover of the Hearing Loss magazine.) If you are not a HLAA member, please do not vote.

Rick Faunt (Auburn) Rick has been a member of HLAA and its predecessor SHHH since 1998. He is a founder of HLA-WA and has served on the Board of Trustees as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Rick graduated from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering Technology. He is employed by Boeing and has a part-time business marketing Williams Sound Products.

Charlene MacKenzie, Incumbent (Bellingham) Charlene is a long-time member of HLAA and a recipient of its 2008 National Advocacy Award. She is a recipient of HLA-WA’s Award of Excellence in Advocacy. Charlene is past president of both HLA of Anacortes and of Whatcom County. She co-founded the Whatcom County Chapter five years ago. Charlene is a founder of the Washington Communications Access Project (Wash-CAP) and currently serves on its Board of Trustees.

Lilia Smith, Incumbent (Camano Island) Lilia is a past president of HLA of Snohomish County and currently serves as Vice President of HLA-WA. Over the years, Lilia has served as a Trustee and has served in several leadership positions in HLA of Snohomish County. Lilia continuously participates in leadership roles and educates others on hearing loss at her workplace. She is approaching her 30th year of employment with the Boeing Company.

Matthew Springer (Bellingham) Matt is Youth Liaison for HLA-WA. He is working on his Senior Culmination Project, a community service venture dealing with hearing loss in teenagers and accessibility and accommodation in summer camps. Matt attended Cochlear America’s workshops in March 2009 and will participate in forming a Cochlear Implant Support Group. He has served as technical advisor for sound systems and audio-visual support for HLA of Whatcom County.

John Waldo, Incumbent (Bainbridge Island) John is a practicing attorney on Bainbridge Island who focuses on legal issues arising out of hearing loss. He is founder, advocacy director, and counsel for the Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP), which is working to make Washington’s public places accessible to people with hearing loss. John also represents individuals dealing with problems such as insurance coverage, job discrimination or denial of appropriate accommodations.
Important ballot information inside

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

Subscription/membership

This newsletter is published quarterly and is free online. To be notified when it is posted, send an e-mail to pallen@hearingloss-wa.org. If you would like it mailed to your address, there is a $10.00 subscription fee to cover our costs. Subscription renewal is January and includes issues through December. If you subscribe during the year, we will provide back issues if you request them.

Membership in the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is $20 student, $35 single, $45 family, $60 professional. Membership includes the award-winning bi-monthly magazine Hearing Loss, special convention rates, and discounts on a variety of products. Subscribe/renew here (or online at www.hearingloss.org).

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The Hearing Loss Association of Washington (HLA-WA) is a 501(c)(3) organization and relies on your support to fund outreach projects that help people with hearing loss. Please make checks payable to HLA-WA and mail this completed form to HLA-WA, 4820 156th Pl. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026-4846 (note new address). Names and addresses are strictly confidential. We do not sell or distribute this information.