Auditory-verbal education for children
By Suzanne Quigley, PhD, Executive Director, Listen and Talk

Auditory-verbal education for children with hearing aids and cochlear implants is essential to their success as oral communicators. It is not enough to have the technology in place. Special care needs to be provided to help these children learn to process and discriminate sounds they were not born hearing. Established in 1996, Listen and Talk continues to be the only program in western Washington that provides auditory-verbal education.

The Parent-Infant Program provides Auditory Verbal Therapy for children younger than three years. We believe the family is a child's most important teacher. To make learning to listen and speak as natural as possible, our Early Individual Specialists act as coaches, teaching the child's parents how to work with their child in a natural, playful way. These sessions build a foundation upon which language learning will continue throughout a child's daily life.

Blended Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classes are for children ages three to five with hearing loss and children with normal hearing. These classrooms rely on developmentally appropriate practices for young children and a specially designed curriculum for children with hearing loss so that all children learn in an active classroom that encourages listening, speaking, thinking, and social and self-advocacy skills.

Individual Therapy Sessions are for children older than three years and focus on the development of speech, language and thinking skills through listening. They continue the process of learning to listen that began in early intervention and build the child's ability to learn and communicate effectively in neighborhood schools. Families remain a critical part of the team as children grow and develop.

(Continued on page 2)

Attention readers
If you are receiving a mailed copy of this newsletter other than by paid subscription, we need to hear from you. Just send us an e-mail and let us know if you would like us to continue mailing it. If we don’t hear from you, we will drop your name from our mailing list. E-mail the editor: pallen@hearingloss-wa.org and put “Sound Waves” in the subject line. Please notify us when you move. Each newsletter return costs us $1.00!
Consultations are available through a unique partnership with the Washington State School for the Deaf. Consultations are for children who attend their neighborhood schools, especially when specialists in auditory-verbal education are not available in those settings. Listen and Talk also provides teaching teams that optimize the educational experience for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

If a child is identified early with hearing loss, fit with appropriate technology, and enrolled at Listen and Talk, it is very likely he or she will enter a neighborhood kindergarten class without qualifying for special services. Such success benefits our community as a whole. For every 1,000 children who do not require special education services after they turn three years old, the return on investment exceeds $5 million. This amount compounds each year the children are not in special education. If the children do not require special education over the course of ten years, the return on investment exceeds $125 million—that is millions of dollars that can be diverted to other critical needs of our community!

To learn more about Listen and Talk and listen to our students and families, visit our website at www.listentalk.org or call to arrange a tour at 206.985-6646.
Taste of technology event
Save your place—May 16 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sprint, HLA-WA, and ALDA will host this half-day event at Tacoma Community College, an easy-to-find location off I-5. This mini conference will be based on the Taste of Technology conference Sprint held two years ago that focuses on telecommunications. It is targeted specifically to hard of hearing people. Complimentary brunch and beverages. To hold your place and receive more info, e-mail Sheila Jackson by April 10: Sheila.Jackson@sprint.com.

What’s a neckloop?

A neckloop is a loop of wire that is worn around the neck and creates an electromagnetic field that is picked up by hearing aids or implant processor telecoils. One end plugs into an audio jack—such as an assistive listening device, iPod, CD player, or phone—any device that has an audio jack. By activating telecoils in both ears, you have—Voila’—surround sound.

What’s a silhouette?

A silhouette functions similarly to a neckloop, in that it has a magnetic field. The silhouette hooks over the ear, between the head and the hearing aid or implant processor. Thus it brings the signal closer. This works better for people who need more volume. If you find you’re always draping a neckloop over your ears, try a silhouette (our dual silhouettes).
HSDC is a nonprofit organization, known for our commitment to service. We take the time to get to know our clients, involving family whenever possible. Our holistic approach includes hearing loss education and rehabilitation, and all proceeds go back into the community, providing for individual and family services. No wonder HSDC has been a fixture in the Puget Sound community for over 70 years.

We provide...

- Hearing Evaluations (child through adult)
- Licensed & Certified Audiologists
- Hearing Aids, FM Systems, and Hearing Enhancement Technology
  State-of-the-art technologies tailored to meet our clients’ individual needs
- Walk-In Repair/Service (weekdays 1 to 1:30 pm)

Hearing Instruments from HSDC include...

- 60-day Extended Trial Period
- Personal Recommendations
  Based on lifestyle and communication needs
- Two-year Warranty including Adjustments & Repair

SPECIAL OFFER!

Receive 10% off any product at hsdcstore.com through the end of 2008. Enter code WAHLA at checkout. HSDC Store carries a wide variety of Assistive Listening Devices including amplified phones and TV headsets.

Give us a call for more info or to schedule your hearing evaluation.

HEARING, SPEECH & DEAFNESS CENTER

Seattle
206.323.5770

70 years of Building Community

auliology@hsdc.org
hsdc.org
Wash-CAP update

By John Waldo, Bainbridge Island

Like a child growing into adulthood, the Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP) has experienced a real growth spurt in the last few months. Our membership has more than tripled—we’re well over 100 now, and we’re getting a much broader geographical presence across Washington. Two of our projects have concluded successfully, another has taken a huge turn for the better, and we’ve undertaken our most significant initiative yet.

The successes

We’ve worked out the details and come to a final agreement whereby Seattle’s Fifth Avenue Theatre will offer at least one captioned performance of each of its seven productions for the upcoming season. Dates haven’t been set yet, but Fifth Avenue will offer season subscriptions to the captioned performances and continue to offer scripts with illuminated binders for all performances. By offering both options, along with assistive listening devices and sign-interpreted performances, Fifth Avenue becomes the most accessible theatrical venue in the Northwest, if not in the nation, for people with hearing loss.

We’ve successfully concluded our litigation with the Washington State Ferries (WSF). Wash-CAP asked that announcements made aboard vessels and in terminals be converted to text and displayed visually, and WSF has agreed to work diligently towards making that a reality. After seeking information and input from user groups, including Wash-CAP and HLA-WA, WSF will purchase and install caption-display systems—first on the biggest Bainbridge boats and at the Seattle and Bainbridge terminals, and then system-wide.

The turn for the better

In February, the United States Department of Justice joined Wash-CAP, HLAA, HLA-WA and other organizations and filed its own friend-of-the-court brief asking the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn an Arizona decision to the effect that the Americans with Disabilities Act does not require movies to be captioned. Because the Justice Department is charged by law with interpreting the ADA, its views will carry enormous weight, meaning what we already thought was a good argument for reversal got a whole lot better. (I don’t know if Wash-CAP can take much, if any, credit for that—I did talk to Justice Department official Oliver Cantos about the case at the Reno convention, where he was the keynote speaker.)

The significant project

In early February, Wash-CAP filed a lawsuit in Seattle asking the movie theaters in King County to expand their offerings of captioned movies. Rather than claiming under ADA, which is a bit murky on that issue (although a decision in the Arizona case will provide much-needed clarity), Wash-CAP based its claim on the Washington Law Against Discrimination and its regulations, which very specifically state that services made available to the general public must be made “understandable.” (We limited the initial suit to King County to keep the case manageable, but we believe the outcome there will set a statewide pattern).

(Continued on page 6)
The lawsuit rather predictably generated some negative reaction from the public—principally the talk-radio set—to the effect that we are another whiny minority wanting special treatment at the expense of everyone else. But we like to think it can become a teachable moment through which we can both educate the general population about our issues and needs, but also educate the hearing-loss population about their own rights.

Wash-CAP is a nonprofit membership corporation dedicated to enriching the lives of people with hearing loss by ensuring that public places in Washington provide the aids and services required to make their services accessible and understandable to us. We accomplish that objective through communication, information, and persuasion. We prefer to work cooperatively and positively. However, if those approaches are unsuccessful, we will take legal action.

Because Wash-CAP can act only on behalf of its membership, we need to show we are supported by a substantial group of citizens. How to join: free via an e-mail to john@wash-cap.com with “membership” in the subject line. Let me know your city and some indication of your own situation.

What you get: Action on your behalf, plus occasional e-mail updates about Wash-CAP advocacy.

We appreciate your support!

Your donations help us fund projects that benefit people with hearing loss. We are especially grateful for our newsletter advertising sponsors, Audient; Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center; John F. Waldo, Attorney at Law; and Cherri Hoyden, Au.D, CCC-A. The following contributions are for November 2008 through January 2009.

- Adrian Bailey, Seattle
- Tom Barker, Seattle
- Judy Barnes, Portland OR
- Danny Beatty, Anacortes
- Dale & Joanne Becker, W. Richland
- Bob Branigin, Seattle
- Evelyn Brittingham, Bremerton
- Wes & Jana Brosman, Cosmopolis
- Robert Cane, Oak Harbor
- Prudence Clem, Bellevue
- Claudine Coucoulis, Auburn
- Janet Dahl, Mountlake Terrace
- Rita Durand, Everett
- Jim Figg, Auburn
- Rick Faunt; Michael Bower, Auburn
- Angeline Fosburgh, Liberty Lake
- L. Tom Freeman, Sequim
- Dolores and Rudy Gahler, Anacortes
- Jim Grant; Melissa Crane, Poulsbo
- Frances H. Hayes, Oregon City OR
- Dick and Deanna Hickman, Bellevue
- Highline Audiology (Eileen Freed) Burien
- Sharon Howland, Bellevue
- Ann Hyman, Edgewood
- Rose Inouye, Shoreline
- Dorothy A. Johnson, Olympia
- David Johnson, Bellevue
- David Kietzke, Seattle
- Brenda Kochis, Spokane
- Don & Marie Kulla, Brush Prairie
- Cibyl Kumagai, Snohomish
- Lynne Lewis, Gig Harbor
- Elaine Maros, Normandy Park
- Julie A. Mason, Battleground
- Susan Matt, Mercer Island
- Joyce McDaniel, Lynnwood
- Aileen Miholovich, Seattle
- Ruth Wynn Miller, Spokane
- Jerry and Joanna Olmstead, Anacortes
- Mary Olson, Puyallup
- Gene Pankey, Steilacoom
- Wanda Pelayo, Seattle
- Pamela Polensky-Bonser, Spokane
- John C. Robbins, Renton
- Della Ramsden, Seattle
- George Ross, Seattle
- Lilia Smith, Camano Island
- Beverly Ziarko, Kent
- United Way Kitsap County, unknown donor
- Rose Inouye, Shoreline
- Dorothy A. Johnson, Olympia
- David Johnson, Bellevue
- David Kietzke, Seattle
- Brenda Kochis, Spokane
- Don & Marie Kulla, Brush Prairie
- Cibyl Kumagai, Snohomish
- Lynne Lewis, Gig Harbor
- Elaine Maros, Normandy Park
- Julie A. Mason, Battleground
- Susan Matt, Mercer Island
- Joyce McDaniel, Lynnwood
- Aileen Miholovich, Seattle
- Ruth Wynn Miller, Spokane
- Jerry and Joanna Olmstead, Anacortes
- Mary Olson, Puyallup
- Gene Pankey, Steilacoom
- Wanda Pelayo, Seattle
- Pamela Polensky-Bonser, Spokane
- John C. Robbins, Renton
- Della Ramsden, Seattle
- George Ross, Seattle
- Lilia Smith, Camano Island
- Beverly Ziarko, Kent
- United Way Kitsap County, unknown donor
- United Way
- Did you know you can make regular United Way contributions and help hard of hearing people in our state? These readers have supported this newsletter throughout the year through United Way:
  - Erlene Little, Oak Harbor
  - Timmie Mauck, Poulsbo
  - Dean Olson, Seattle
- Microsoft Match
- Mark and Susan Svancarek, Redmond

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.

United Way
Did you know you can make regular United Way contributions and help hard of hearing people in our state? These readers have supported this newsletter throughout the year through United Way:

- Mulushewa Asgehedom, Kent
- John C. Robbins, Renton
- Della Ramsden, Seattle
- George Ross, Seattle
- Lilia Smith, Camano Island
- Beverly Ziarko, Kent
- United Way Kitsap County, unknown donor

Safeco Insurance
Employee Giving
- Mulushewa Asgehedom, Kent
- John C. Robbins, Renton
- Della Ramsden, Seattle
- George Ross, Seattle
- Lilia Smith, Camano Island
- Beverly Ziarko, Kent
- United Way Kitsap County, unknown donor

Microsoft Match
- Mark and Susan Svancarek, Redmond

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.
State Facilities Access Committee
Low Visibility, High Impact
By John Allen, Port Orchard

By the time you read this, I may be riding off into the sunset with only memories of the State Facilities Access Committee (SFAC) and its good deeds. In the interest of lowering Washington State expenditures, Governor Gregoire has included this committee in her candidate list for elimination.

Governor Locke created the SFAC by Executive Order in 1996 because too many State buildings—constructed, remodeled, and leased—were the subject of complaints because they did not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (implemented in practice via the Americans with Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines-ADAAG) and the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD). In addition to complaints, the cost of lost productivity, retrofitting to compliance, and the agony of modifying rental agreements made it crystal clear that some proactive preventative step was necessary in the planning, construction, and rental process. Thus, the SFAC was born to:

- Ensure that all state-owned and leased buildings are usable for people with disabilities.
- Establish a Capitol Campus free of architectural and operational barriers, thereby restricting use by people with disabilities.
- Educate all state employees and contractors to be sensitive, respectful, and responsive to people with disabilities.
- Protect the civil rights of people with disabilities as they participate in and benefit from state services and programs.

What does this administrative verbiage mean to you and me? For me, it means twice-monthly trips to Olympia (or a field trip somewhere in the state) to participate in detailed reviews of state construction projects or lease agreements in the planning phase. My focus, as you can imagine, is on the hearing and communication access of these projects. Typical features I look for in a project are:

- Assembly area audio and assistive listening systems (classrooms, auditoriums, meeting and conference rooms, stadiums, theaters).
- Provisions for captioning (designated screen or whiteboard or readerboard) in assembly areas.
- Localized lighting for a sign language interpreter.
- Classrooms designed and constructed to acoustical standards.
- Hearing assistance signage.
- Audio-visual products open captioned.

For you, with a hearing loss or any other qualifying disability, it means that if you have visited a State building that was built, remodeled, or leased in the past twelve years, you are the benefactor of the SFAC’s approval signature on the construction drawings or the lease agreements.

My participation on the SFAC has been a continual learning process, as new technologies and coping techniques are developed for the entire range of disabilities. I have also had a great deal about the International Building Codes, State regulations, the ADAAG, city ordinances, and architectural standards. Over time, Committee members, seasoned architects, and project managers have developed an amazing team spirit and depth of knowledge. The objective is always to make a facility as accessible as possible for everyone, not to analyze a facility’s compliance with the letter of the law. It has been a rewarding experience for me, especially when I visit the Poulsbo Campus of Olympic College, the State Capitol Building, and Green River Community College Library and Arts Building—all of which I reviewed in the drawing stage.

Please feel free to contact me if you have suggestions or observations. Even though you didn’t elect me, I am essentially representing you.

Editor: John has also been appointed to the new courthouse access committee in Olympia. E-mail him at jcallen@silverlink.net.

Ears, Hearing & Beyond cancelled for 2009
This annual conference hosted by the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center at the University of Washington has been cancelled this year. We will keep you posted on next year’s event. It’s always something our members look forward to, and we’re sad to see it cancelled.

ODHH Advisory Committee gets axed
The Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Advisory Committee got caught up in Governor Gregoire’s sweeping abolition of boards and commissions. ODHH Executive Director Eric Raff plans to hold town hall meetings in lieu of the committee meetings. We need to support this and show up. Look for information in coming issues. HLAA member Mary Steinmeyer served as the last chair for this committee and did an outstanding job. Thank you, Mary!
One of the pioneers of Cochlear Americas' technology upgraded recently. Bruce Rafford has come a long way from being one of the first five cochlear recipients in the US to receive a cochlear implant in 1982 to being one of those who upgraded to a Freedom 22.

Bruce received a single electrode implant in March 1982 through the House Ear Institute, a leading American hearing research center in Los Angeles. Later, in December 1983, he had it replaced with a Nucleus 22, by Cochlear Americas.

Between 1984 and September 2008, Bruce upgraded to more sophisticated processors as they became available: the Wearable Speech Processors (WSP) F01, F02, and F03; Mini Speech Processor (MSP); and the Spectra. Each time he upgraded to a new processor, it also meant he had to learn to hear all over again.

In September 2008, Bruce upgraded to the Freedom 22, which came with two different controlers—a body and a BTE. Bruce used the body controller for the first five weeks before switching to the BTE controller, as he wanted to be free of the 39-inch cord he had been wearing for 26 years. Bruce is unique in that he has never had the magnet implanted in his mastoid bone. His internal coil is next to and a little above the left ear. Because of this, there is not enough room for both the external coil and the Freedom 22 on the same ear, so he wears the Freedom 22 on the opposite ear, using an external coil with an eleven-inch cord. Bruce fashioned a headband to keep the external coil in place.

During his Freedom 22 learning process, Bruce had to go through the trials and tribulations of deciding what each of the four programs should be. At this time, ADRO is on program one, SPEAK on program two, T-coil on program three, and BEAM on program four. He discovered that adjusting to these sounds on all these programs takes lots of practice and time. He has not had any map changes since October, as the sounds are getting better each day. After about a month of using the Freedom 22, an acquaintance of Bruce's mentioned to him that pre-Freedom 22 his voice sounded like he had a cold; but with the Freedom 22, it doesn't.

Bruce gets himself into many different situations that involve communication and gaining more experiences. Different listening environments often require him to change programs. This is a big change from using the SPECTRA, since the SPECTRA had only one program and was easy to use.

As with many CI recipients, my hearing discoveries involve the outdoor environment. Years back, I could always mimic most common bird calls fairly well. However, for the last 20 years, I haven't heard the higher pitch calls of the birds that come to our feeder and breed on our property.

I was activated at the beginning of February 2008. A few weeks later, I experienced the “icing on the cake.” Sitting on the deck with my morning coffee, a very inquisitive and social male song sparrow came over to sit near me for a visit and a chat.

Previously, I had to listen by watching the vibration of his throat feathers. However, on that day—to my great surprise—I could hear his call. I proceeded to reply to his call, and I could hear myself as well. We were really into this conversation when he surprised me with a beautiful and lengthy song, and then another one. WOW!!! After some trial and error, I was able to produce a sound not too unlike his music. We conversed in this way for at least five minutes before he took a breather at the feeder. It felt like we were celebrating this momentous occasion together.
No more snoring
By Penny Allen, Port Orchard

I’ve had otosclerosis, with resulting progressive hearing loss, for 25 years. I’d routinely carry around an FM system to whip out at a moment’s notice. I was evaluated twice for a cochlear implant but didn’t qualify. In 2006, with severe to profound hearing loss, I had stapedotomy surgery in each ear at the UW Medical Center, hoping it would improve my hearing. I went from an 80dB loss at 500Hz to a 30dB loss. In fact, the entire line on my audiogram was raised considerably and I was amazed I could hear without hearing aids. To my dismay, I also discovered my husband snored.

The following weeks and months were both frustrating and horrifying, as I was fitted with new hearing aids and my world filled with new sounds. The car went VROOM when I put my foot on the gas, and the toilet turned into the Loch Ness monster. I was told it might take months for my hearing to stabilize. Though the surgeries were deemed a success, it soon became apparent that my comprehension was actually worse than before. This was likely due to the advancing cochlear otosclerosis (stapedotomy surgery involves only the middle ear). Even my FM system couldn’t make words intelligible. I felt such despair at Thanksgiving 2007, when I couldn’t understand my own daughter. But I sure could hear my husband snoring.

I went back to the UW for another implant evaluation and Dr. Rubenstein told me I was a potential candidate for the Hybrid cochlear implant. While I was waiting to be accepted into the clinical trials, my hearing took a dive and I qualified for a standard cochlear implant, which I received in September 2008. At that time, my overall sentence comprehension was less than 30% and single words less than 10%. My main source of comprehension had become lipreading.

From the time my implant processor was activated, I understood speech very well. Nevertheless, Tina Worman, my audiologist, told me to listen to books on tape. I immediately reported back to her that I could understand without the text and it was faster to just read a book. She told me I needed to listen anyway. And so I did—and I still do. My kids gave me an iPod Touch, and I download videos and podcasts and listen with a neckloop or the patch cord to my processor. Since I knit at the same time, I don’t feel like I’m wasting time.

I can still use the phone with my hearing aid, but my comprehension is also good with my processor. I listen to the radio, mostly NPR or talk shows. I rarely watch TV; but when I do, I find I don’t need to rely on captions as much as I used to. I haven’t used my FM system since I had the surgery because I don’t need volume. I regularly meet with friends from three different hobby groups, in addition to HLAWA meetings, so I’m constantly interacting with others. (I did that even when I couldn’t understand because I thought it was important to keep listening and participate.)

All I’ve really hoped for from an implant was one thing—to understand my daughter’s voice. And I do—very well. But I’ve received so much more from it. Mainly, I feel like I belong again and sometimes forget I even have a hearing loss. I hear all those things other implant recipients have reported, and every day is a gift. But sometimes silence is golden—especially at night.

HSDC South Sound
CI support group

CI support group meetings are sponsored by the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center and held the 4th Saturday, every other month from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. For date and location, contact Christine Seymour, Communication Advocate for the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center, Tacoma; Phone 253-475-0782; TTY/VP 253-474-1748; Cseymour@hsdc.org.

Practice listening

Books on Tape can be checked out at your local library. Ask your librarian for help. You can find a used CD player at any thrift shop. Start with children’s books.

Listen to NPR and talk radio. You can also download podcasts from NPR and news sites.

Revisit the classics! You can find free audio books online at www.librivox.org.

Watching TV may not be very helpful, because captions don’t match the voices. Try listening without looking at captions.

Advanced Bionics Listening Room: www.hearingjourney.com has interactive exercises.

Using the phone takes practice! Call Cochlear’s Telephone with Confidence toll-free number: 1-800-458-4999. If you have a computer, you can go online to verify what you heard. Advanced Bionics has a number for passages (1-800-809-8071) and one for conversations (1-800-809-8069). If you have a computer, verify what you heard at the Listening Room (above). Try other toll free recordings, such as the DOH Shellfish Safety Hotline: 1-800-562-5632.
Chapters in Washington  
Information, Education, Advocacy, and Support

Meeting times and days sometimes change, and most chapters take a summer break. See our website for more information on our chapters.

BELLINVUE—2nd Sat. 1:00 pm; Lake Sammamish Four Square Church, Rm. 104, 14434 NE 8th St., Bellevue; amplification, FM. Prudence Clem: 425-746-1074 or Mary Carter: greymare25@aol.com or Bev: bevziarko@hearingloss-wa.org

BOTHELL—4th Mon. 1:30 pm; Northshore Senior Center, 2nd floor conference room 202, 10201 E. Riverside Dr., Bothell. Karen Utter: 206-817-3213 or klutter@verizon.net.

EAST JEFFERSON CO.—4th Mon. 1:00 pm; Port Townsend Community Center 620 Tyler Street, Port Townsend; amplification, FM. Emily Mandelbaum: mandelbaum@olympus.net or 360-531-2247; or Sandy MacNair: smacnair@cablespeed.com or 360-385-1347.

KITSAP CO.—3rd Sat. 1:00 pm; Iris Room (lower level) at Silverdale Harrison Medical Ctr., 1800 N.W. Myhre Rd. amplification, FM. John Allen: 360-871-0997 or jcallen@hearingloss-wa.org.

RENTON—2nd Fri. 12:30 pm; Renton Senior Ctr., 211 Burnett Ave. N., Renton; amplification. Glenda Philio: philiofam@juno.com or Karen Utter: 206-817-3213.

SKAGIT CO.—2nd Tues. 1:00 pm; Fidalgo Center, 1701-22nd St., Anacortes; amplification, FM. Jerry Olmstead: 360-299-3848 JOlmst623@aol.com or Danny Beatty, 360-293 2793, dbeatty@wavecable.com.

SNOHOMISH CO.—3rd Sat. 11:00 am; Providence Medical Center, Pacific Campus, 916 Pacific Ave., Everett (Main Level meeting room); amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Steve Pettijohn: spettijohn@msn.com or Dusty Hansen 425-353-7515.

SPOKANE—2nd Sat. 9:30 am; Eastern WA Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 1206 N. Howard, Spokane; amplification, FM. Margaret Mortz: mortz@gmail.com or 509-893-1472 or hlaspokane@gmail.com.

TACOMA—2nd Sat. 10:00 am; TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Melinda Wagner 253-851-6183 or gracelavendar@comcast.net

WEST SEATTLE—3rd Wed. 1:30 pm; West Seattle Christian Church Library Room (door to the right of the main door, as you’re facing the church) 4400 42nd Ave. SW, Seattle; Jack Eldridge: 206-937-5996; or David Kitezke: 206-932-7538 or krddrk@yahoo.com.

WHATCOM CO.—3rd Sat. 10:00 am; Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Dr., Bellingham; amplification, FM. Joyce Sweeney: 360-734-0469 or jampls@comcast.net

Chapter Chatter

Our Chapter Coordinators, Karen and Bev, hope to share some information and answer any chapter related questions. We welcome your feedback and contributions to future columns.

- **West Seattle Chapter** is again holding regular meetings at their new location.
- A new HLAA chapter is in the works. **Seattle/University Area Chapter** is now forming. This will be aimed primarily at students, younger people with hearing loss, and those people now in the workforce who can attend a centrally located HLA meeting in the UW area. Contact us if you would like to be included in the planning or have your name added to the mailing/email list.
- Margaret Mortz from the **Spokane Chapter** reports that her local Silver Sneakers exercise program provided an ALD for her class. She referred the instructor to the Eastern WA Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Char Parsley helped to make it happen!
- Congratulations to **Bruce Rafford**, also from the **Spokane Chapter**. The Disability Business Technical Assistance Center, NW Division, recently awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation for being an outstanding Citizen Advocate.
- The **Whatcom Co. Chapter** plans a special program for May—a presentation by Ranger Charles Beall, Chief of Education and Interpretation, North Cascades National Park: “North Cascades National Park, a Hearing Friendly Place.”
- We wish to thank Darlene Pickard for her work with the **Snohomish County Chapter** as she has voluntarily provided CART services for their chapter meetings for a number of years.

We get questions...**Who can attend an HLAA chapter meeting?** Everyone! All chapter meetings are open and we welcome visitors to attend at any time. You may wish to call or e-mail someone to verify the meeting time or location. We encourage you to also bring along family members.
The Washington Court Reporters Association (WCRA) is working with the Department of Licensing to revise some of the statutes that relate to the practice and licensing of Court Reporting. One of the proposals is to license Computer-Assisted Realtime Translation (CART) Providers.

Currently, CART Providers are not required to be certified and anyone, regardless of skill level, can hang out a shingle and call himself or herself a CART Provider. If the proposal is successful and CART Providers are licensed and certified, this would require each CART Provider to pass a minimum skills test to become certified. It would also create a database of Certified CART Providers that our clients could utilize and a process for complaints, if necessary, about poor quality CART Providers.

If an HLAA group would like to hire an uncertified CART Provider to voluntarily caption HLAA meetings, that would not be against this proposed law, as long as the prospective uncertified CART Provider accurately represents his or her skill level to the group. It would also not prevent other access technologies from providing CART-type services, as long as the person is not representing himself or herself to be a CART Provider.

We feel this will help alleviate some of the confusion that currently exists when hiring a CART Provider, since many of our clients that hire us are not the clients that actually use our services, and hopefully boost the quality of the services we offer. While the National Court Reporter's Association (NCRA) does have a certification program for CART Providers, it is a voluntary program, and far too few folks—be it CART Providers, captioners, or reporters—go to the expense and effort to take it. The current State proposal would make getting CART certification here in Washington, easier, more available, and possibly less expensive.

Editor: Once CART Providers are certified, the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be able to maintain a list of referrals—a good thing for us. Currently, ODHH cannot do that, as it does with Sign Language Interpreters who are certified.

Louise has an impressive list of credentials from NCRA. She is a Certified Broadcast Reporter and has been working for KOMO Channel 4 since 1998. She also captions for TVW. In the past, she captioned, pro bono, for two of our chapters.
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 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).

Name_________________________________________________________________________________

Business name (if applicable)____________________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________________________________________

City________________________________________State____________________Zip________________

E-mail (optional)_______________________________

Please check all applicable: ____$10 Sound Waves subscription. ____Please provide back issues for the year.

Membership in HLAA:_____ $35 Single____ $45 Family____ $20 student ____ $60 Professional ____Donation

____Total enclosed (no cash, please)

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.