Greetings from the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing! I want to share with you some exciting updates that will improve equal access opportunities for people who are hard of hearing!

**Captioning videos**
Working with Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), a memo was released to DSHS managers that, as of February 1, 2012, all videos posted to the DSHS Internet website, DSHS Intranet website and DSHS YouTube channel must be captioned. ODHH provided a list of captioning resources for various DSHS programs, and DSHS has modified its video procedures. This memo promotes more accessible DSHS videos.

**CART**
The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) administers certain contracts that are available through the Washington State Purchasing Cooperative (WSPC). WSPC includes state and local government agencies and some nonprofit organizations that can use state contracts to obtain state rates that are usually lower than the market rate because of purchasing volume. For the past several years, ODHH has been partnering with DES to develop a statewide Computer Assisted Real Time Translation (CART) contract. CART services would be intended for people who may be clients, citizens, and/or employees and can be used in individual, group or public meetings with government officials.

Good news! Five CART providers were awarded new contracts for a two year period starting in February. Consequently, ODHH released a memo to DSHS managers that CART service is now available and DSHS is required to use the DES contracts. DES released a bulletin to all WSPC members that the CART providers are now available. However, it is optional for other members to use the DES CART contract. To review the contracts, see https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/ContractSearch/ContractSummary.aspx?c=07010.

**Assistive Communication Technology Program (ACT)**
Colleen Rozmaryn, ACT Program Manager, has been a tireless advocate on Deaf-Blind and hard-of-hearing accessibility issues, as well as active in HLA-WA. She has been with ODHH for over 20 years and will be retiring May 31. We’ll be sad to see her go, but happy for her as she begins the next phase in her life journey with family.

We’ve decided to have this position focus on hard of hearing accessibility issues. The position does not require American Sign Language fluency. Recruitment is under way and we hope to begin interviews this May. It is essential that the new employee be able to continue the ongoing ACT projects and accomplishments to-date, as well as seek and explore long-term strategies toward improving equal access opportunities for hard of hearing people.

These are some of the latest developments ODHH has been doing for you. In the next HLA-WA news letter edition, read more about Assistive Listening Systems and the ODHH website.

Ed. note—Eric Raff can be reached at rafferic@dshs.wa.gov.
Loop Seattle kick-off a success!
By Cheri Perazzoli, HLA-WA Director of Advocacy

Turnout for Let’s Loop Seattle’s inaugural event April 20 at Virginia Mason’s recently-looped Volney auditorium was excellent! More than 80 consumers, hearing health professionals, civic and community leaders attended the event. Hearing loop demonstrations were featured throughout the entire evening, beginning at registration, extending into the exhibits, during the presentations and the Q & A panel.

Our three loop installers joined with “Loopin’ Lou” Touchette of Arizona to create an amazing exhibit of loop products for attendees. First-rate visuals illustrating hearing loop signage, telecoil and loop basics, and multi-loop applications were educational and enlightening.

David Myers’ key-note speech was inspiring! Starting with the how’s and why’s of understanding speech intelligibility, he took us step by step through the mechanics and operations of telecoils and loop systems. We joined him on a photographic journey of London: from the moment of arrival at Heathrow airport, visitors are greeted by signage indicating the airport is looped. Next, we see the Heathrow Express has a loop installed so passengers can understand announcements. There are loop signs at ticket counters and information booths for the London underground. As we visit various tourist attractions, stores, pharmacies, libraries—even taxi cabs—we are shown that not only are these facilities looped, there is clear signage that notifies the public. For the hard-of-hearing traveler, this potential experience is nothing short of remarkable!

Hearing loss, hearing aids and hearing access have been integrated into the everyday culture for British citizens. By treating hearing loss as a normal occurrence and providing access with loops, they have paved the way to lessen the stigma of hearing loss. Signage can help make an invisible condition visible.

Dr. Myers told how he first looped his home, then his church and then a friend’s church. He created a movement to Loop America by showing that communities all over the United States can increase hearing access.

The looped auditorium at Virginia Mason was truly the star of the show! Attendee Maridee Garvey shared, “I’m impressed; I heard every word!” Mary Johnson commented, “I came to the Let’s Loop presentation and loved it. I have never used a loop before and trying one out was fantastic! I haven’t heard that well in years.” Much of the credit and thanks go to Christina Quekett, lead audiologist at Virginia Mason, who was instrumental in the loop installation.

The kick-off event is only the beginning of our program to bring hearing loops to our communities.

(Continued on page 3)
(Let’s Loop Seattle...Continued from page 2)

hearing loops to the Seattle area. The ERA Retirement Community has plans to install loops as pilots for two of their five communities. More retirement homes are on board. Architects are securing jobs that include loops for veterans or seniors. Why not include loops in all building plans?

I’m excited to announce the Bellevue Art Museum is installing a loop in its auditorium where many popular arts programs are held. BAM will be partnering with Let’s Loop Seattle to host hearing accessible events! Together we’ll work to raise awareness of the need for hearing access. Visit the Let’s Loop Seattle booth (S14) at the Bellevue Art’s and Craft’s fair July 27-29!

The buzz about hearing loops is in the air. Audiology clinics are looking to add loops to their practice. The Port of Seattle welcomes your input. Seattle businesses have approached installers as they consider how to best provide hearing access to their customers. It is exciting to watch the movement grow across our region. Updates at www.loopseattle.org.

About us—The Hearing Loss Association of Washington (HLA-WA) is affiliated with the national organization, The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), and is the nation’s leading organization representing people with hearing loss. We provide resources for people with hearing loss and their families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss. HLAA impacts on communication access, public policy, research, public awareness, and service delivery related to hearing loss. See www.hearingloss.org or write HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Tune in—E-News is the primary e-newsletter of HLAA: www.hearingloss.org/membership/Sen.asp. To keep abreast of our state issues, e-mail info@hearingloss-wa.org and ask to be added to the e-mail list. E-mail addresses are confidential and all group messages are blind-copied.

University of Washington
Speech and Hearing Clinic

Listen to Dubs, the Husky mascot...

...“Speech is Worth Hearing”

Hearing Evaluations
Hearing Aids & Services
Aural Rehabilitation
Speech Language Evaluations & Therapy

UW Speech and Hearing Clinic
4131 15th Ave NE  Seattle, WA 98105
Phone: 206-543-5440  Fax: 206-866-1185
http://depts.washington.edu/sphsc

About us—The Hearing Loss Association of Washington (HLA-WA) is affiliated with the national organization, The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), and is the nation’s leading organization representing people with hearing loss. We provide resources for people with hearing loss and their families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss. HLAA impacts on communication access, public policy, research, public awareness, and service delivery related to hearing loss. See www.hearingloss.org or write HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Tune in—E-News is the primary e-newsletter of HLAA: www.hearingloss.org/membership/Sen.asp. To keep abreast of our state issues, e-mail info@hearingloss-wa.org and ask to be added to the e-mail list. E-mail addresses are confidential and all group messages are blind-copied.
Save the date!
9th Annual HLA-WA Family Picnic
Saturday, July 21
10:00 am-1:30 pm
(eat at noon)
Lake Boren Park, Newcastle

Bring your family and friends and meet some new faces!

WE WILL PROVIDE hot dogs and condiments, bottled water, ice, paper plates, cups, napkins, and eating utensils.

PLEASE BRING a potluck dish to share (salad, dessert, etc.) and a beverage if you want something other than water. A folding chair and a blanket are handy, too.

DIRECTIONS: Lake Boren Park is located in Newcastle, between Factoria and Renton.

Traveling South on I-405, just after the I-90 interchange, take Exit 10, Coal Creek Parkway SE. Go about 4 miles. There is a small lake on your right. Turn RIGHT onto SE 84th Way (stop light) and a sign that says "Lake Boren Park."

Traveling North on I-405, take Exit 5. Turn RIGHT onto Hwy 900 (NE Park Dr., which becomes Sunset Blvd.). Go about 3 miles, then turn LEFT at light onto Duvall Ave. NE, which becomes Coal Creek Pkwy SE. Go about 1 mile and turn LEFT onto SE 84th Way (stop light).

The park entrance is on the RIGHT, shortly after turning onto SE 84th Way. Follow it into the park, near the gray restroom building, and park here (the only building and parking lot in the park). Behind the building is our shelter. The park has walking trails, tennis courts, playground facilities.

Phone chatter
By Penny Allen,
Port Orchard

If you’re not into technology, take a deep breath and forge ahead anyway. Assuming you want to stay connected, that is.

Ultratec, leader in telephone captioning technology, has recently come out with its third rendition of CapTel. Here is the difference in the three models. Model 800 is offered only through the state equipment distribution program (TED) via a contracted installer/trainer. It requires an analog phone line or DSL line with a filter. Your callers must place their calls through a captioning service so their calls can be captioned. However, this phone has two phone jacks, and adding a second phone line will give you automatic two-way captions (and a higher phone bill).

Models 800i and the newer 840i both require high-speed Internet, but a computer isn’t necessary. Both models are meant to work on digital lines (think Comcast). Incoming calls are automatically captioned. The 840i has a larger screen and built-in answering machine. Either of these phones must be ordered online, and installation is your problem.

CaptionCall, a phone developed by Sorenson Communications, offers a similar version that arrives via an installer/trainer. It also requires high-speed Internet but no computer. As in the CapTel 800 and 840i, all incoming calls are automatically captioned without the need for a second line.

Try a neckloop. It plugs into the audio jack so you can hear with both ears. (You can try this with any phone that has an audio jack.) You’ll need telecoils in both hearing aids and/or cochlear implant processors. While a standard neckloop (3.5mm plug) works with a CapTel phone, the CaptionCall phone requires a 2.5mm-to-3.5mm adapter plug (which they provide). It’s up to you to provide the pricey neckloop accessory with a microphone. What were they thinking? But you’ll love listening this way.

Try Web CapTel. No need to buy a special phone. Use a phone near your computer to hear and talk (or use a cell phone), while reading the replies on your computer monitor.

Try Mobile CapTel. On the road? Read the conversation on your smart phone or tablet, while listening through a hands-free device. (Not while driving, of course.)

Can’t understand messages? Captioned phones have the ability to caption your messages from a nearby answering machine or voice mail.

Can’t understand your voice mail on your mobile phone? Try Google Voice. Get your voicemails emailed to you or sent as text messages.

Do you text? Don’t be too quick to dismiss this easy way to stay in touch just because you’re all thumbs. Actually, that’s a plus.

So what will they think of next? We’ll let you know.

Resources
www.captel.com
www.captioncall.com
www.phonecaptions.com
www.clearcaptions.com
www.google.com/voice
www.zdnet.com (The definitive Google Voice How-to Series)
TED Program: www.dshs.wa.gov/hrsa/odhh/ted.shtml
The following contributions are for February 2012 through April 2012:
- Adrian Bailey, Seattle
- LeAnn Mong, Poulsbo
- Bill and Nancy Henderson, Pasco
- Angeline Fosburgh, Liberty Lake
- Erlene Little, Oak Harbor
- Barbara Kaiser, Seattle
- Pamela Ploensky-Bonser, Spokane
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- Jan Doherty, Spokane
- Rebecca Grady, Highline Hearing Professionals, Burien
- Danny Beatty, Anacortes
- Richard Stannard, Seattle
- Vicki Gaines, Athens, GA

Your donations help us fund projects that benefit people with hearing loss. We are especially grateful for our newsletter advertisers in this issue: CaptionCall; Cherri Hoyden, Au.D, CCC-A; Cochlear Americas; University of Washington Speech and Hearing; Listen for Life Center at Virginia Mason; and Washington Relay.

Paid advertising helps us provide outreach newsletters to clinics, and hospitals, and to be distributed at health fairs.

Did you know you can make regular United Way contributions to HLA-WA because we are a 501(c)(3) organization? Check to see if your employer has a matching gifts program and double your donation!

Moving on? Each newsletter return costs us $1.10. Please help us keep our costs down by letting us know when you move. Send us an e-mail or fill out the form on the back of this newsletter.

HearingLossNation—a social network
HearingLossNation is a non-profit online community designed specifically for hard-of-hearing individuals between the ages of 18 and 35. See www.hearinglossnation.org.

Webinars—mini online hearing accessible seminars that feature the nation’s leading experts in hearing loss. Join it live or access the archives: www.myhearingloss.org.

We appreciate your support!
Implant corner about implantable devices
How my cochlear implants have changed my life
By Ann Rodgers, Seattle

I walked my hearing dog to Starbucks this morning; it’s our daily ritual. The sun is not shining and it is not warm yet, but I love this adventure. I shouted to my friend, Bob, who sells the Real Change newspaper, "Do you have your new hearing aid yet?" He shouted in return, "In about a week." He forgets that he doesn’t need to shout to me anymore. I now have bilateral cochlear implants and I can hear most conversation.

I often forget about this bionic miracle as I go about daily life, but there was a life of sorts before my implants which was very quiet and too still. I felt alone and isolated and suddenly too timid to talk about this hearing loss. I felt ashamed, as if it were my fault. I stayed in the background of life. I got my first cochlear implant in 1999. It was considered only partly successful due to a long time hearing loss and much calcification.

After the death of my husband, my hearing helper, I joined HLAA in Pittsburgh, PA. I wished immediately that I had done that much sooner. I later moved to be near family in Seattle, and in 2008 I got my second cochlear implant. I gained a huge increase in my ability to hear and understand speech. The older CI even seemed to enhance the new one. I returned to my rather lively, talkative self. There may be a few who wish for my quiet self!

Recently I have thought about going back to school to finish the master’s degree I barely started. I have always loved new adventures in learning. I like words and how they can be put together and what they may mean when they are placed in an unusual manner. Two words I have disliked are "handicapped" and "disabled." The meaning I gave to them was not good and certainly meant "less than" to me. Those words were a part of the shame I felt as a non-hearing person.

The University school I am interested in held an open house. I realized as I listened to the lecture that I could not always understand the speaker and I could not hear the questions behind me. No worries with the real time captioning the university provides.

However, I was waiting for an elevator to the third floor open house and discovered it was not going to arrive; I would have to take the stairs. Oh, no! I have no depth vision and I have a significant balance disorder. I have been ashamed of these disabilities as I was of the hearing loss. I always hoped no one noticed. Here I go again asking for help, which I had little intention of doing. I act as if it is a character defect rather than something which indicates how human we are. And as I reveal more of who I am, I always learn that people want and like to help. And they are more likely to share who they are. Bingo, a friendship begins.

I am about to plan a consultation at the University. They have programs in place for people with disabilities. I am pretty sure they may have even had a "buddy system" in case I get stuck on a staircase somewhere. We shall see. I already know about the "buddy system" because that is one of the many rewards of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) and the Say-What Club (SWC).

Sounds you may have forgotten...
A clash of wills
Gingersnaps
A smashing outfit
That drip you dated
The bark of trees
Shooting stars
Money talking
A dropped hint

CI support groups
North Sound: Combined meetings with HLA Whatcom County, 3rd Sat., 9:30 am - 11:30 am. Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Dr., Bellingham. FM, real-time captioning, amplification. Refreshments. Contact Bert: bertlederer@msn.com or 360-319-4540(V).

South Sound: 4th Saturday, every other month (except Nov. and Dec.) 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma. Hearing assistance: amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Refreshments. Contact Christine to be added to email list: christineseymour@comcast.net or phone 253-256-4690 for info.

Where’s Christine?
Christine Seymour, who facilitates the South Sound CI support group, suddenly left her job at the Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center (HSDC) Tacoma office last year. She’s popped up again with a business of her own and continues to help people with hearing loss through contracts with other agencies: www.cs-dhhrs.org.

Financing assistive technologies
The Washington Access Fund provides low-interest (5%) loans and matched savings accounts to Washington residents for any type of assistive technology including hearing aids, cochlear implants, ALDs, alerts, computers, Tablet PCs and cell phones with apps for hearing loss. The fund also offers low interest loans and matched savings accounts for business equipment needed for employment or self employment. Apply online: www.washingtonaccessfund.org or call 206-328-5116/V or 1-877-428-5116 or 1-888-949-4775 TTY.
My “other half,” Rick Faunt, has a severe hearing loss due to Meniere’s on one side and no middle ear bones on the other. When we met, he had not yet received his first hearing aid. I soon figured out why I always had to walk on his “good side” and sit across from him, and I did try to talk a little slower and louder. However, by our third trip to the movies I was beginning to wonder about this guy. He insisted that we get to the theater very early, buy the snacks, and then get seated long before the show started. Then he would plow into the popcorn like there was no tomorrow! As soon as the movie started, though, he would hand me the popcorn—what was left of it! When I finally got up the nerve to ask him why, the answer was simple: “I can’t eat popcorn and hear the movie.” Of course! It made perfect sense. I began to wonder how many other “strange” behaviors people develop in order to be able to function with their hearing loss.

Twenty-five years later, we have a house full of assistive devices; most are unobtrusive and some are even helpful for me. I don’t notice the closed captioning unless it is really inaccurate or turned off. I am used to leaving room in the luggage for the Dry and Store hearing aid dryer, putting the extra hearing aid batteries in my purse, and finding room for the backup hearing aids.

I have learned to tolerate the special alarm. I can even laugh now at the memory of me crouching like some cave woman, trying to bury the horrible, blaring siren and the flashing strobe light in towels because Rick had gotten up before it went off and didn’t disarm it.

We are much better at communication, but it is a daily effort: don’t face the wall, make sure he REALLY understood what I said, match my expression to the message...

There is no easy or quick fix; communication takes daily effort. But it is so worth it!
Captioning online content
By John Waldo, Advocacy Director and Counsel
Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP)

In many ways, the Internet is a huge blessing for those of us with hearing loss. Email and texting provide us with the opportunity to communicate non-verbally, and the ability to purchase many products and services online lets us shop at home without worrying about those frustrating telephone conversations.

But the Internet hasn’t been all up-side. It is also an increasingly important vehicle for distributing entertainment like television programming and movies, and information like educational materials. And all too often, the material delivered over the Internet is inaccessible to us because it is not captioned.

The basic problem, as I understand it, is not that Internet material cannot be captioned, but rather, that captions must be prepared specifically for Internet application, even if captions have already been prepared for another application. While a television show may have been captioned when it was originally broadcast, those captions are not automatically captured when the same show is offered on the Internet. The same is true of a movie that may have been captioned for theatrical release.

So there is some cost involved. Quality captioning easily costs $150 per hour or more. If, as I have been told, captioning a movie for the theater costs $2,000 or more, then captioning the movie for streaming on the Internet would cost at least that much again.

Unfortunately, the prospect of increasing the audience by providing accessibility has not been enough to prompt businesses in general to undertake the extra expense of preparing captions specifically for the Internet. It was the recognition that marketplace forces were not going to provide accessibility for individuals with disabilities that prompted passage of state and federal laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act that require businesses to make their services accessible. But technology moves much faster than the law, and with some narrow exceptions, neither federal nor state disability law specifically references the Internet. In some circumstances, an accessibility requirement is clear even in the absence of any specific mention.

(Continued on page 9)
Sound Waves
Summer 2012

The Listen for Life Center
at Virginia Mason Medical Center

The Listen for Life Center at Virginia Mason Medical Center specializes in protection, evaluation and treatment of hearing loss for infants to the elderly.

SERVICES INCLUDE:
- Comprehensive audiologic testing (includes specialized testing for the diagnosis of vestibular and auditory system abnormalities)
- Cochlear Implant Program
- Bone-Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Program
- Hearing aid evaluation and fitting
- Full-service pediatric hearing program (including diagnosis and management)
- Custom hearing protection, swim molds
- Assistive listening devices
- Community service and awareness
  VirginiaMason.org/listen

(Continued from page 8...Captioning)

of the Internet. Title II of the ADA, which applies to government entities, and the federal Rehabilitation Act, which applies to federal agencies and to entities that receive federal funds, require affected entities to make all of their “programs, services and activities” accessible to individuals with disabilities. So anything offered online by a government agency of any sort—a state, a city, a public school or hospital—or by any agency that receives federal funding, must be made accessible through captioning.

It’s a different story, though, where private businesses are involved. The problem is that Title III of the ADA, which applies to most businesses open to the public, requires that those places of public accommodation make their goods and services accessible to individuals with disabilities. A number of past and ongoing lawsuits have argued that the Internet in and of itself is a “place,” but that argument has received a mixed reception in the courts.

The Internet is a wonderful tool, but for the moment, it is not universally accessible to people with hearing loss. Technologies that would automatically caption online videos may be possible, but at the present time, provide very uneven captioning quality. Should such technology be perfected, that may solve the access problem. Existing laws do not yet provide a direct and usable mechanism for creating access, and new laws may be necessary.

Ideally, the Internet sites themselves would find that captioning makes economic sense, and would voluntarily do so through existing technology, despite the costs. At this point, our collective best bet might be to personally and publicly thank those businesses that do provide captioned content online, and to persist in requesting captions from those businesses that do not voluntarily provide it.

COAT’s primary goal is to ensure that legislative and regulatory safeguards are in place so people with disabilities have access to evolving high speed broadband, wireless, and other Internet-based technologies. COAT has identified two main areas for advocacy: Communication Access and Video Programming Access. HLAA and HLA-WA are members or COAT. Read more about it: www.coataccess.org
Neckloops—give them a try!

Neckloops are not found in retail stores. They must be ordered through specialty stores or online. A neckloop functions the same as a room loop, but it is a personal listening accessory worn around the neck. It generates an electromagnetic field that can be picked up by the telecoils in hearing aids or cochlear implant processors, bringing the sound directly to the user and bypassing background noise. Studies show binaural listening may double speech comprehension. (No telecoils? Talk to your dispenser!)

A conventional neckloop can be plugged into an assistive listening device (such as a pocket talker), some telephones, CD player, computer, TV, iPod, or any sound source that has an audio output jack. It cannot be used for cell phones because it has no microphone. Additionally, it has no volume control.

A powered neckloop uses batteries to power a microphone and volume. In addition to audio devices, it can be used for cell phones and is probably the least expensive hands-free “loop” device.

A Bluetooth neckloop may use disposable batteries but normally uses a charger. It has a microphone and volume control and accesses sound wirelessly from a Bluetooth-compatible device (such as a cell phone or a computer), which is only a short distance away. Note there is no plug.

Nokia appears to be the first company to coin the term “loopset,” a listening accessory to be used with their cellular phones. Other companies have since followed. Technically, it’s still a neckloop and may or may not be Bluetooth.

A few good resources:
* www.tecear.com
* www.nokiaaccessibility.com/loopset.html
* www.hearinglossweb.com (Neckloops 101)
Chapters in Washington
Information, Education, Advocacy, and Support

Meeting times may change, and most chapters take a summer break. Visitors are welcome. Note: chapters may request contributions to cover local expenses. See www.hearingloss-wa.org for more information.

BELLEVUE—2nd Sat. 1:00 pm; Lake Sammamish Foursquare Church, Rm 104, 14434 NE 8th St., Bellevue. Hearing assistance: amplification, FM, induction loop, real-time captioning. Bev: zbev@msn.com or 253-631-3141.

EAST JEFFERSON CO.—4th Mon. 1:00 pm; Port Townsend Community Center 620 Tyler Street, Port Townsend. Hearing assistance: amplification, FM. Emily: 360-531-2247, mandelbaum@olympus.net.

RENTON—2nd Fri. 12:30 pm; Renton Senior Ctr., 211 Burnett Ave. N., Renton. Hearing assistance: amplification. Glenda: philiofam@juno.com or 253-631-2345 (evenings).

SKAGIT CO.—2nd Tues. 1:00 pm; Fidalgo Center, 1701-22nd St., Anacortes. Hearing assistance: amplification, FM, Loop. Jerry: 360-299-3848 JOlmst623@aol.com or Donna 360-299-2035 or 2oldies@verizon.net.

SNOHOMISH CO.—3rd Sat. 11:00 am; Providence Regional Med. Ctr. Colby Campus, Medical Office Bldg., 14th & Rockefeller Ave, Everett (Rainier Conference Rm., Level G). Hearing assistance: amplification, FM, real-time captioning. hla-snoco@hotmail.com or Cibyl: 425-379-2833 (4 + rings).


TACOMA—2nd Sat. 9:30 am, TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma. Hearing assistance: amplification, FM, real-time captioning.

Gerry: (253) 686-1816 or Penny pallen@hearingloss-wa.org.

WHATCOM CO.—3rd Sat. 9:30 am; Christ The Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Dr., Bellingham. Hearing assistance: amplification, FM, and captioning at selected meetings. Don: 360-647-6728 or dongischer@comcast.net. See www.hearingloss-whatcom.org.

Looking for a chapter?
We are now forming chapter planning groups in both Olympia and the UW/North Seattle area. Please contact our Chapter Coordinator if you are interested in attending a chapter in these areas or if you’d like to start one in another area.

Spokane Shines
The Spokane Chapter is now enhancing its community outreach efforts by publishing a full-color brochure and a quarterly newsletter. Chapter members are also giving presentations about ways to cope with hearing loss and staffing information tables at various locations around the city. Members are currently developing a web site for the chapter and planning a rummage sale this summer to help pay for its expanded outreach efforts. See chapter listing for more information.

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Seeking new Board members: Each year the general membership elects a Board to represent you. They are elected for three-year terms and must be members of HLAA. Please consider joining us. We need you and your skills! E-mail info@hearingloss-wa.org for more info.
Subscription/membership

This newsletter is published quarterly and is free online. To be notified when it is posted, send an e-mail to info@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. Join/renew here (or online at www.hearingloss.org).

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Please check all applicable:  ____$10 Sound Waves subscription. _____HLA-WA Donation

 Please provide back issues for the year.

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

 __________________________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 to 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.

Names and addresses are strictly confidential. We do not sell or distribute this information.