SHHH has a new name, Hearing Loss Association of America, and a new set of initials, HLAA. The changes, including a new logo, typeface, and slogan and are designed to establish a new corporate identity and spur membership growth. The decision was approved by the SHHH Board of Trustees on November 6 in Bethesda, MD.

Although the SHHH initials and name, Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, are familiar to its members, they have not received general recognition beyond the membership and the initials are often mispronounced. The new name more clearly identifies the mission of the organization.

Terry D. Portis, executive director of SHHH stated, “SHHH needs to position itself to meet the needs of a new generation of people with hearing loss while, continuing to serve the constituents who rely on us today. I believe that by updating our name and image we will be better able to communicate our message and fulfill our mission. SHHH expects to complete the transition to the Hearing Loss Association of America in March 2006.”

Richard Meyer, president of the SHHH Board of Trustees said, “This strategic decision is a significant milestone in SHHH’s 25 year history. While remaining committed to the vision of founder Rocky Stone, SHHH is evolving to best meet the needs of people with hearing loss today and in the future, continuing to be a pioneer in advocacy and support for consumers with hearing loss.”

What does this mean to our state? With our next issue, you’re likely to see a new name—Hearing Loss Association of Washington, with chapters also reflecting a name change.

Rest assured, the mission is still the same—to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support.

**Early bird registration**
Join us at the 2006 SHHH Convention in Orlando, FL, from June 29 - July 2. The super saver registration rate is offered to SHHH members until December 31. After that, rates will be $50 more for individual registrations and $110 more per couple (or two people from the same address).

Not a member? It’s not too late to join and receive these savings. Go online or call or write (see contact information at right). You can also register for the convention online.

**Membership**
In SHHH is $20 student, $25 single/family, $50 professional. It includes the award-winning bi-monthly magazine, Hearing Loss. Write to SHHH, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-657-2248 (Voice); 301-657-224 (TTY); 301-913-9413 (Fax) or online: www.hearingloss.org.
Join SHHH!

The SHHH mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, advocacy, education and support. We invite you to join SHHH members to advocate at federal, state, and local levels for better communication access.

SHHH advocacy issues
- Better access to affordable hearing aids, cochlear implants and other technology for all who can benefit
- Telephones designed to work with hearing aids and cochlear implants
- Assistive technology and programs complying with disability rights laws and providing accessibility in public and private facilities, workplaces, and state and local governments
- More captioned movies in neighborhood theaters
- Improved quality of captioned TV and meeting FCC captioning regulations timetable
- Strengthening federal requirements for accessible air travel, including appropriate screening procedures
- Roll-out nationwide of a captioned telephone service
- Improving access to hearing health services and evaluating their effectiveness
- Increasing grant funding for the training of more captioners
- Enhancing funding for infant hearing screening programs and follow-up care
- Strengthening standards for visual and audible fire alarms

Support these grass roots activities!

Ben Gilbert donates big for hearing loss

Ben Gilbert has lived with a profound hearing loss for many years but that hasn’t stopped him. He has remained active in mainstream community, state, and national activities and attributes it to support and education he received about his hearing loss through SHHH. Still, Ben has one pressing concern—how to get the word out about SHHH so that others can benefit too.

At the December 3 WASA-SHHH Board meeting, Ben presented a check for $25,000 to the state association to establish an outreach fund, with the hope that others will make contributions to keep the fund going. He is convinced his gift can assist chapters throughout the state to reach out and inform the larger percentage of persons with hearing loss about their options and the resources available to retain their ability to communicate aurally.

SHHH depends upon volunteers to spread the word about SHHH, and many chapters do not have the financial resources to do so. The types of projects Ben envisions include startups of new SHHH chapters, presentations by SHHH members to other community service organizations, and preparation and distribution of SHHH information to community centers, hearing health care providers, and educational facilities. The funds will be administered by a management group within WASA-SHHH.

Penny Allen, the president of WASA-SHHH and who has worked with Ben for many years in SHHH activities, is most grateful for the gift and not totally surprised that someone who has given so much to the hearing loss community over the years continues to give and to help others. “Ben is such a generous person. He has given much to us with his time, his knowledge, his persistence, and his heart,” she said. “I have assured Ben his gift will produce results. I can think of several good projects that are just waiting to spring to life.”

Prior to coming to Washington, Ben was senior editor at the Washington Post and then planning director of the District of Columbia. Since retiring to Tacoma in 1984, he has been involved in SHHH for over ten years, serving as president of the Tacoma Chapter and a national and state board member. Other civic activity includes being on the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission and director of City Club of Tacoma. He is also the editor of the Implant Corner of this newsletter and co-edits a newsletter for the Tacoma Chapter.

Details of the grant request process and conditions have been provided separately to chapter leaders.

Get the latest information from the national office in a brief bi-weekly e-newsletter: http://hearingloss.org/html/sen.html
Is DVR right for you?

By Terry Redmon
Chief of Special Programs, Dept. of Social and Health Services
WA State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Do you want to work? If you have a disability that makes it difficult for you to get or keep a job, and you want to work, the Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) can help.

What is DVR? DVR is a statewide resource for people with disabilities. We assist individuals with disabilities in getting and keeping a job. DVR is a state and federally-sponsored program. DVR works in partnership with the community and businesses to develop employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Who does DVR serve? DVR may serve you if you:
1. Have a physical or mental disability that makes it difficult to get a job or keep a job that matches your skills, potential, and interest.
2. Need services and support, such as counseling, training, or assistance with a job search, in order to get or keep a job.

How can DVR help me go to work? DVR staff will help you get the information you need to make a good decision about what type of job you want and the steps needed to reach your goal of going to work. With support from DVR, you will design and carry out a step-by-step plan to reach your employment goals.

What types of services does DVR offer? DVR offers a variety of services to assist people with disabilities to prepare for, get, and keep jobs. The services you use depend on your individual needs and circumstances. DVR can provide you with the information necessary to assist you in deciding which services you need to reach your job goal. Examples of services include:
- Assessment services to measure your strengths, capabilities, work skills, and interests. These services assist you in selecting a job goal and the DVR services you need to reach that goal.
- Counseling and guidance services provided throughout the rehabilitation process to help you make good decisions about how to reach your goals.
- Independent living services help you understand and deal with disability issues that prevent you from working; these include, but are not limited to training in self-care, money management, and using community transportation.
- Assistive technology services assist you with communication or doing tasks by using devices such as hearing aids, visual aids, special computer software, etc. You can explore with your counselor how technology might help you reach your employment potential or get a device you need to go to work.
- Training services provide you with work skills needed to achieve your employment goal.
- Job placement helps you carry out your job search, including assistance completing application forms; developing a resume; and practicing interview skills and identifying job leads.

Order of Selection
By law, when DVR cannot serve everyone who is eligible for and wants services, we must determine the order in which people are served, based on disability-related criteria. A DVR Counselor evaluates the eligibility information that identifies limitations resulting from your disability. Based on that review, the VR Counselor determines a priority level:
- Priority 1: Individual with most severe disabilities
- Priority 2: Individual with severe disabilities
- Priority 3: Individual with disabilities

Depending on the date of your application and the priority level currently being served, your name may be placed on a waiting list for services. This may result in a delay in services for some applicants.
Hearing aids for low income people
Lions Clubs work with dispensers to provide free refurbished hearing aids to anyone who qualifies. Contact your local Lions Club or dispenser to apply.

If your annual income is $23,500 or below (single wage earner), you qualify for new high-quality, low-cost hearing aids through the Lions Audient program. More information: 1-877-283-4368 or see http://www.audientalliance.org.

HAIL (Hearing Aid Insurance Legislation)
Please write or e-mail your legislators and ask them to support hearing aid insurance coverage. Rep. Sherry Appleton will introduce this bill in the Appropriations Committee, where it died last session. We are still looking for sponsors in the Senate. Please ask your Senator to sign on to this bill. As of this date, we do not have bill numbers, and the language could be changed from the last session. If you would like to be added to our HAIL e-mail information list, please contact Penny Allen, HAIL Chair, at PAllen@wasa-shhh.org.

Washington State Equipment Distribution
If you live in Washington State and have a hearing loss, you are eligible for an amplified phone, Voice Carry-over phone, or TTY, and/or a telephone signaling device. A contract trainer will deliver the equipment. Cost is based upon income. Contact Kelly Robison, Program Manager: 1-800-422-7930/ V; 1-800-422-7941/TTY; write to Telecommunications Equipment Distribution, PO Box 45301, Olympia, WA 98504; or e-mail Robiskd@dshs.wa.gov.

T-coil access here and abroad
By Wes Brosman, Cosmopolis
My wife and I like to travel. Spending time in Europe has given me occasion to experience a few differences in hearing access between the US and Western Europe.

Way back in 1984, on our first trip to Europe, we took a ferry from France to England. On reaching the ferry terminal in Dover, I saw the universal hearing access logo displayed for the first time. Under the logo was a message telling me to switch on my T-coils. When I did so, I was surprised to clearly hear the announcements, in spite of the general noise around me. In fact, I heard the PA system so well I could reverse the normal pattern and tell my wife what was going on. I received notices on which line to get in and where to exit for the bus to London. My wife was no less impressed than I was.

In the ensuing years since that first encounter, we have made a dozen trips to Europe, and I have found even more hard-of-hearing friendly locations. All of the tourist information locations have been looped, as have the theaters that we attended. I was hearing and understanding in Europe just fine. I should say the aids I bought in Europe pick up sound through the T-coils, with volume to spare. My newest aids, bought in the US, pick up only a faint sound or none at all.

Noting this difference, I asked a panel of seven experts at the 2002 SHHH Convention in Seattle about my experience. These individuals represented all of the largest hearing aid manufacturers in the world. I asked if my perception was correct that the aids I bought in the US had weaker T-coils than those sold in Europe. All of the panelists agreed that the T-coils offered in the US were weaker. They added that most aids sold here have no T-coils since, as they put it, “There is just no demand for it.”

I say that there is a demand for a T-coil and the strongest one possible. I recently attended a court hearing where I was the first user of the new FM system and used a neck loop listening accessory. The signal in my hearing aid was so weak I had to wear the neck loop like a babushka, over the top of my head and draped right on top of my aids. These were my newest aids, costing more than $6,000 for the pair and bought in the US with the specification that they be equipped with the strongest possible T-coils. They did not do the job. So if the high-end hearing aids don’t have T-coils that work for me, then what?

It’s up to all of us to demand the stronger T-coils we need to make use of magnetic loops, FM, Infrared systems, and even telephones. We might also take time to reconsider buying the array of assistive listening devices that do not depend upon the T-coil to function; i.e., devices such as TV listening systems that require you to remove your hearing aids to use them. These devices have made it possible for the manufacturers to play down the importance of T-coils.

Editor: Wes is working on courtroom access and would like to hear of any problems you may have encountered with accommodations. Contact Wes at 360-537-0456 wesbro@olynet.com.
We appreciate you!

Your donations help us fund projects that benefit people with hearing loss. These contributions are for the last quarter, August - October:

- Barbara Farley, Puyallup
- Betty Ruble, Auburn

United Way

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:

- Barbara Farley, Puyallup
- Betty Ruble, Auburn
- Della Ramsden, Seattle
- George Ross, Seattle
- Lilia Smith, Camano Island
- Timmie Mauck, Poulsbo
- Bev Ziarko, Kent
- United Way Kitsap Co., unknown donor

Microsoft Matching Program

- Mark and Susan Svancarek—Redmond

Double your donation! Many employers will match their employees’ donations to non-profit organizations. If you are planning to make a donation to WASA-SHHH, please ask your employer if your company has a matching gifts program. We are a 501(c)3 organization.

Do your hearing aids love your car?

By Don Pickens, Redmond

I use a neck loop and T-coil with my cell phone in the car so I can be hands free with my phone and also hear more clearly. Other assistive listening equipment, such as a pocket talker or loop system, are also used by car owners with hearing loss. You may find interference from mild to severe when using hearing aids in the T-coil mode. This is known as EMI (electromagnetic interference) and is caused by one or more of the electronic options being packed into cars nowadays.

If you are buying a new or used car, I would recommend you include your T-coils as part of your test driving procedure. Sometimes the interference issues are isolated to certain areas in the car. So if you have a family member who wears hearing aids, you should take him or her car shopping with you and test the car with all of the electronic equipment and options operating—items like the radio, satellite radio, and navigation system.

In looking for a new car, I decided to walk up and down auto row and do nothing more than ask the salesperson to turn the engine on to see how my T-coils reacted. I was amazed at the variety of results. Among different models of the same manufacturer, I had vastly different experiences. I had absolutely no electronic interference with the Cadillac line of cars; but when I walked across the street and tried the Chevrolet Equinox, I had interference. The new Hummer 3, no problem. All are General Motors cars. Same with Chrysler—interference with the 300C and Jeep Grand Cherokee, but no interference with the PT Cruiser. Sometimes just by moving the position of my head, I moved in and out of interference in some models.

With the vast variety of hearing aids in use and different cars loaded with various electronic options, there is no simple answer. But test driving your hearing aids while car shopping is a lot easier than trying to return a car because your hearing aids don’t love it.
Implantcomer
For cochlear implant wearers and those
who seek more information about this technology

By Ben W. Gilbert, Tacoma

Living with a CI—Jerry and Dolores tell how it’s done

Jerry Olmstead’s story
At age 5, I was deaf in one ear and experienced a fluctuating to severe hearing loss in the other. In 1999, I was implanted with a Nucleus 24. I long-qualified for an implant, having been nearly deaf the last 10 years; but I was reluctant, even with my wife pushing hard! When Cochlear Corp. offered their BTE option, I jumped for the implant.

My doctor of 30 years, Dr. Donaldson, was associated with Seattle Ear, so I elected to have Dr. Mangham perform the surgery. In my pre-testing, I scored 0 in the blind verbal test; three days after my “turn on,” I scored 96% on the same test. Nice!

On our trip home from my first mapping, my wife drove home while I played with that strange thing on the dash called a radio…I could understand some of the sounds, but the noise of trucks passing was too much.

I went through a general rediscov-ery period of identifying all those wonderful sounds and some not so wonderful. My coming-out party was Thanksgiving 1999, the first time no one had to take notes for me. I heard the conversation around the table and had a grand time—a true Thanksgiving.

For Christmas, my children gave me music CD’s. I still enjoy instrumental music the most. Some vocalists still sound like screaming cats. We now have 6-disk CD changers in our vehicles, and I have them on nearly all the time.

On the negative side, young children’s voices remain very uncomfortable.

Noisy places, restaurants for instance, are now tolerable. For the first 6-12 months I would simply walk out of noisy places, but not now. I find that I do better in that environment than when I wore a hearing aid.

I am active and go boating, so I use an ear mold to anchor the processor. The processor did blow off my head in the wind. Wind is still a source of discomfort and I am unable to process the “real sounds” when the wind intrudes.

Life style changes included my being comfortable in strange environments. In October, my wife and I will be enjoying our sixth visit to Europe. Prior to my implant, I was unwilling to do that traveling.

I have no residual hearing. Don’t let that issue keep you from an implant—there is no comparison with what little I had and what I enjoy now while my processor is firing away. My wife says my hearing adjustment is complete—I now have “selective hearing” and screen her out quite well.

Dolores Gahler’s story

My hearing loss became apparent about 30 years ago, as I turned 40, when I checked with my ENT MD for tinnitus. I got my first hearing aid 3 years later, but it was downhill from there. The hearing aids always fell short, dealing with an average 10 decibel hearing loss per year.

I grew more and more depressed, frustrated, and self-isolated, because the struggle to understand and relate to people was so very hard. Eventually my husband, Rudy, made all my phone calls. Although my family was supportive and helpful, there was much I missed. Interacting was difficult. I was unable to communicate directly with my grandchildren. I avoided meeting new people and trying to make friends, because I hated explaining my disability and asking for multiple repetitions.

I knew by 1990 that cochlear implants were available for the deaf, but I didn’t qualify until 1999, at age 64. Then, with a momentary hesitation, I e-mailed Gordon Nystedt, former SHHH state coordinator, about my fears. His response: “Go for it.” And so I did. Dr. George Gates at the UW performed the surgery, and Tina Worman has been my CI audiologist. She says my comprehension is very high, 95% - 99%. I do love my CI.

After the very first programming session, I was disappointed with the monotone sound quality. About

(Continued on page 7)
(Continued from page 6...Dolores’ story)

a week later, when we were invited by friends for dinner, I decided to wear my hearing aid with the processor. I wanted to understand the conversation at least as well as I had pre-surgery. I was astonished at the improvement: The hearing aid gives better, more natural sound to complement the full range of tones—high to low—that the processor produces, and greatly improves my comprehension.

I now have a new Phonak hearing aid with directional microphones, which is a help in noisy restaurants and parties. I can listen to the radio in the car and enjoy going to movies and plays. I love listening to birds sing and heard my first winter wren last spring. Music generally is a pleasure again. I do stack the cards in my favor: front row seating at plays, closed captioning for TV, windows and light sources at my back, etc. But I now enjoy meeting people, and we are able to carry on an active social life.

If people speak clearly, sometimes I don’t require speech reading. My body processor, Sprint, is connected to my amplified phone. Using the phone receiver on the unimplanted ear and the body processor on my implanted ear gives me great phone reception, which seems a miracle to me.

The CI surgery seemed to have no effect on my tinnitus, although it is not generally a problem. On the whole, I feel my life has been given back to me. I feel like a normal, communicating individual, and that is a magnificent gift indeed. My CI is the Cochlear Corp. Nucleus 24. I wear the ESPrit 3G BTE.

What cochlear implants do, how they work, who gets them


Cochlear implants (CIs) are electronic devices that bring speech sounds to people with severe to profound hearing loss whose hearing aids do not serve them adequately. Implants have an external speech processor that works as a mini-computer. It is connected magnetically to a small wafer implanted at the skull with a wire array threaded through the cochlea to the hearing nerve.

The wafer is usually implanted as simple day surgery. The speech processor is worn behind the ear (BTE) or, because of special needs, as a body pack. Unlike hearing aids, CIs usually convey a full spectrum of sounds. As of 2005, 30,000 persons have received implants in the US, ranging from deaf children as young as 12 months to adults in their eighties.

For young children, an early implant enables them to develop language with their peers. Adults who learned to speak before losing their hearing do somewhat better than those whose impaired hearing preceded speech. For deaf persons seeking to communicate with “main stream” speakers, implants may supplement sign language.

Typically only one ear is implanted. Many implant wearers use a hearing aid in the non-implanted ear to tap residual hearing. That helps to locate sound direction, and reduce background noise. A physician’s “medical necessity” referral is required, typically stating that existing hearing accommodations are unable to achieve acceptable performance.

The Food and Drug Administration governs implant surgery eligibility for non-Medicare patients. Individuals with 60% or less sentence discrimination in the “best aided condition,” and 50% or less in the ear considered for implantation, meet FDA standards. Medicare now requires speech understanding ability of 40% or less in the best aided condition. Most health insurance policies and Medicare underwrite a substantial portion of the implant.

Auditory therapy may be advised, depending on the extent of the hearing loss. Some patients find that implants restore much speech understanding within a day or two, but others may take many weeks to reach acceptable levels. Although first speech may sound like Donald Duck, it soon becomes “normal.”

Implants are produced by Cochlear Corp. (Cochlear Americas), maker of Nucleus system devices: www.cochlearamericas.com and Advanced Bionics, maker of Clarion and High Resolution devices: www.advancedbionics.com. Med-El, a third firm, has withdrawn from the US market following an FDA citation.

Three SHHH implant wearers are available to respond by e-mail to non-medical questions:

- BenGilbert: bengilbert@wasa-shhh.org
- Mary Steinmeyer: N22Mary@att.net
- Emily Mandelbaum: mandelbaum@olympus.net
Welcome new Board members
WASA-SHHH recently elected its new 2006 Board of Trustees. Incumbents were Penny Allen, John Allen, Bev Ziarko, and Don Pickens, with two new nominees—a total of six people elected to six open positions. The new Board members were installed at the WASA-SHHH general meeting in December. Welcome new members, Susie Burdick and Bert Lederer.

Susie Burdick is CEO of the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center, President-elect of the NW Development Officers Assn., and an active member of the National Assn. of Speech and Hearing Centers. She has been a strong supporter of SHHH and has involved WASA-SHHH in several community outreach events.

Bert Lederer is President of the Bellingham/Whatcom Chapter. He has served on the Food Bank and United Way boards, co-chaired the United Way Combined Federal Campaigns, managed EEO and employee-labor relations programs, and has been the human resources director for large organizations. He is an adjunct university professor, and has his MA in Government and Public Administration.

How to prepare for an emergency
By Donna Platt, Washington State 9-1-1/TTY Education Program, a program of Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center

Everyone is worried about not being informed when an emergency happens—an earthquake, flood, windstorm, fire, chemical spill, terrorism, etc. With more practice and planning, you will know what to do when a real disaster happens:

Set up a buddy system
Home – Talk with your family and friends. Review plans (what to do and where to go) and agree to check with each other when the emergency warning is received and/or after the emergency disaster happens. Contact your neighborhood crime watch captain or someone in your neighborhood and ask to have someone check in with you.

Work – Discuss emergency plans with your supervisor and co-workers. Be sure to have some kind of warning signal (flashing light, pager, or message sent to your computer) and someone to get your attention in an emergency.

Get emergency preparedness training. Check with your local emergency management agency, local Red Cross, or local CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) for dates and information. The training will help you to be more prepared and to know what to do before, during, and after a disaster. You can check their websites for information on how to prepare yourself. Get the brochure Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now: 1-800-464-6161 TTY, 1-800-237-3239 Voice, or www.ready.gov.

Prepare things for 3 days or more:
✓ Water – 1 gallon/day/person
✓ Food – dry, canned, powder
✓ Food for pets
✓ Can opener (not electric)
✓ Clothes for warmth and rain
✓ Flashlight & extra batteries
✓ First Aid Kit
✓ Fire extinguisher
✓ Medications
✓ Extra eye glasses
✓ Money
✓ Important papers
✓ Paper and pen
✓ Backup hearing aids/batteries

Subscribe to receive free alerts sent to your text pager or e-mail
*Emergency Email Network (http://www.emergencyemail.org/
*Regional Public Information Network (RPIN) for King, Snohomish and Pierce counties: http://www.rpin.org/rpinweb/
*King County Public Health e-mail alerts: http://www.metrokc.gov/health/about/subscriptions.htm-
*Weather Bug - http://www.weatherbug.com

Check your TV news website
Some stations have severe weather notification services, as well as breaking news, which can be sent to your pager and/or email.

Check other websites
*Weather Channel: http://www.weather.com
*King County Public Health’s Response to Bioterrorism: http://www.metrokc.gov/health/bioterrorism

For more information, contact Donna at 206-323-5770 TTY or e-mail 911@hsdc.org.
Fourteen of us came from all over the country—representing cities from Juneau, AK to Naples, FL—to attend the Annual Leadership Training in Bethesda, MD from September 23 - 25. This training was funded by a grant from the AT&T Foundation and Sprint.

Tony West, from Metairie, LA, had just barely survived hurricane Katrina, and she made it to the training. I represented Washington, along with Lilia Smith from Camano Island.

We first met in a get-acquainted session, and this was one event I wish we could have repeated. There was such a wealth of information in that room, and I think we all wished that we could ask more questions of each other and share more. There just wasn’t enough time.

I was especially impressed with the personal visions expressed by everyone from the national office. We got to know Terry Portis, Executive Director; Brenda Battat, Associate Executive Director; and Toni Barrient, Director of Member Services, as real, hard-working people. Each of them spoke to us about the things they were most involved in.

Saturday was filled with presentations by the SHHH staff and some of the group participants. We learned more about motivating people, finances, getting grants, and chapter development. Chapters across the country are run in very different ways. Some of the most successful chapters have many committees. One woman said there were 30 members in her chapter and 30 committees. They find what each person is interested in and each is given at least a small responsibility. What a vibrant chapter that is! And the emphasis is in developing the chapter and its individuals.

The most exciting thing for me was when Terry mentioned that the name change was in the wind. (And now we’ve got it!) I nearly jumped up and down in my seat—it felt like a breath of fresh air for the organization. Now our name will more easily tell people who we are.

Membership was discussed and again, it was stressed that the only DUES are those paid to the national organization. It was mentioned that in Idaho, to be a chapter member you have to be a SHHH member (join the national organization). That makes real sense to me. SHHH needs our numbers to give them more clout at the national level. In every chapter I speak to now, I urge people to join SHHH. Yes, we need new members, but they need us even more.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing people (now Hearing Loss Association of America) is a vibrant, valuable organization, and I am very glad to be a part of it. Thank you, friends, for suggesting I apply for leadership training.
Chapters in Washington

Support and Education

Meeting times and days sometimes change, and most chapters take a vacation break. See our website for program listings.

BELLEVUE—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 e-mail chapter coordinator.

CRISTWOOD—Time/location in retirement complex varies. 350 N. 190th St., Shoreline; amplification: infrared. Rose Inouye: 206-542-5541 or e-mail inou@wasa-shhh.org.

DOWNTOWN SEATTLE—4th Thurs. 6:00 pm; HSDC, 1625 19th Ave., just off Madison; amplification, FM. Focus is on issues in the workplace. Judi Carr: 206-935-6637 or jstarbright@wasa-shhh.org.

EAST JEFFERSON COUNTY—4th Mon. 1:00 pm; Pt. Townsend Community Center, 620 Tyler Street, Pt. Townsend; amplification, FM. Emily Mandelbaum: mandelbaum@olympus.net or 360-379-4978 or Sandy MacNair: 360-385-1347 or smacnair@cablespeed.com.

EVERETT AREA—2nd Sat. 11:00 am; Snohomish Co. PUD Commission Rm., 2320 California, Everett; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Dave Pearson: 360-653-6746 or DCPearson@wasa-shhh.org.

FOUR FREEDOMS—1st Thurs. 1:30 pm; Four Freedoms House, Rm. 9, 747 N. 135th St., Seattle; amplification. Eleanor Kowalski: 206-364-3837 or Kelly Richards, Service Coordinator: krichards@prudentproperty.com or 206-364-2440.

GRAYS HARBOR—2nd Tues. 6:00 pm, Timberline Public Library, 121 E. Market, Aberdeen. Wes Brosman: 360-537-0456 or wesbro@olympnet.com.

IDA CULVER HOUSE BROADDVIEW—2nd Thurs. 2:00 pm, 12505 Greenwood Ave. N. Seattle; Michael Craig: 206-368-3713 or MCraig@ERACARE.com.

KITSAP—4th Sat. 1:00 pm; Iris Room at Silverdale Harrison Hospital, 1800 N.W. Myrbe Road; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. John Allen: 360-871-0997 or jcallen@wasa-shhh.org.

ORCAS ISLAND—Meetings times irregular; Orcas Senior Center, 62 Henry Rd., Eastsound; amplification, FM. Susan Kosiur: 360-376-574 or swkosiur@aol.com.

PORT ANGELES—3rd Tues. 10:00 am; Pt. Angeles Senior Ctr., 328 E. 7th, Port Angeles; amplification, FM. Gladys Snyder: gladysja@olypen.com or 360-683-9887.

RENTON—2nd Fri. 12:30 pm. Renton Senior Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N., Renton.; FM, real-time captioning. Mary Hollenbeck: 425-430-0594 or Sandra Bunning: Sandrab@wasa-shhh.org.

SHHH KIDS—Just for hard of hearing children and their families. South King County area. Time and location change due to scheduled activities. Sidney Weldele-Wallace: (wk) 253-833-9111, ext. 4705 or 253-833-6487 (h) or sweldele@greenriver.edu.

SKAGIT—2nd Tues. 1:00 pm; Fidalgo Ctr., 1701-22nd St., Anacortes; amplification, FM. Danny Beatty: 360-293-1074 or dflyb@telcomplus.net.

SOUTH KING COUNTY—2nd Fri. 6:00 pm; Auburn Regional Med. Center, Rm. 327, 202 N. Division, Auburn; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Tom Weight: trweicht@netzero.net or 253-939-9332.

SPOKANE—2nd Sat. 9:30 am at Rock Pointe-East, 1313 N. Atlantic, Spokane, in the DVR conference room; amplification, FM. Please be sure to arrive at 9:30 am or doors will be locked. Barbara Brassard: sina@icehouse.net or 509-326-6712.

TACOMA—2nd Sat. 10:00 am at TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Jerry Hansen: 253-531-6532 or jerryhansen@wasa-shhh.org.

THE HEARTHSTONE—2nd Tues. 10:30 am; 6720 E. Greenlake Way N, Seattle; amplification, infra-red. Donna Leggett: 206-517-2204 or ilactivitiescord@hearthstone.org.

WEST SEATTLE—3rd Wed. 1:30 pm; Fauntleroy Church, UCC Lounge, 9260 California Ave. SW, Seattle; amplification, induction loop. Elaine Maros: elainemaros1@juno.com or Doug Gray at 206-932-6427.

WHATCOM-BELLINGHAM —3rd Sat. 10:00 am; Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 1600 Lakeway Dr., Bellingham; amplification, FM. Bert Lederer: 360-319-4540 or bertlederer@msn.com or Charlene MacKenzie: 360-738-3756.

2006 WASA-SHHH Board meetings

Board meetings are scheduled four times a year. Our final meeting of the year is a general meeting with installation of the new board. Meetings are open to SHHH members and the public. Captioning and ALDs are provided. Check our web site for meeting locations and times:

March 25, June 24, September 23, December 2

Volunteer opportunities

- Web design (some experience needed)
- Grant writing
- Public speaking, training
- Newsletter writing/editing, proofreading
- Fundraising, sponsorship
- Advocacy
- Finances/auditing
- Board membership
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Visit our state website at http://www.wasa-shhh.org

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