



E-NEWS FROM HLA A-WA

November 10, 2017

In this edition:

- In the News
- Happy Thanksgiving!
- FCC Order re: Hearing Aid Compatibility
- In the News
- Advice for Identifying and Discussing Hearing Loss
- 2017 Annual Meeting
- ODHH E-News Sign-up
- Affordable Care Act - Exchange Enrollment Coming Soon
- Join or Renew Your Membership
- Alzheimer's Town Halls
- Whatcom 2017 Chapter Meetings
- Calendar



The Board of HLA A-WA wishes you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Note: Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the next edition of E-News will be issued on December 1 instead of on November 24. The December issues will be on the regular schedule of the first and third full weeks of the month.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Order re: Hearing Aid Compatibility

On October 26, 2017, the FCC released an Order to update its requirements for hearing aid compatibility and volume control on wireline and wireless telephones. This Order requires the following:

- Adopts a revised volume control standard for wireline handsets to provide a more accurate measurement of voice amplification;
- Implements a provision of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act to apply all of the Commission's hearing aid compatibility requirements to wireline telephones used with advanced communication services, including phones used with Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) services;
- Requires, in 3 years, that all wireless handsets newly certified as hearing aid compatible must include volume control suitable for consumers with hearing loss; and availability of hearing aid compatible phones.
- Reminds manufacturers and service providers of existing outreach obligations to ensure that consumers are informed about the availability of hearing aid-compatible phones.

More information on existing FCC hearing aid compatibility rules is available online at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/hearing-aid-compatibility-and-volume-control>.

Links to the Order:

URL: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/report-order-updating-hearing-aid-compatibility-rules>

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-135A1.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-135A1.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-135A1.txt

Continued, next page

Links to the Press Release:

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-347380A1.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-347380A1.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-347380A1.txt

For more information, please contact Susan Bahr, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at 202-418-0573 or Susan.Bahr@fcc.gov. For those using videophones and fluent in American Sign Language, you may call the ASL Consumer Support Line at 844-432-2275.

In the News

Some articles about hearing loss that appeared in the news this last week:

- Lawsuit against insurance company for not covering hearing aids: http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/lawsuit-argues-health-insurers-illegally-discriminate-by-not-covering-hearing/article_3e6a13b2-bd9a-11e7-9aa8-8339e153c19f.html
- Inner ear stem cells may someday restore hearing: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/11/171107092626.htm>
- Brain training can improve our understanding of speech in noisy places: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171019143020.htm>

In Case You Missed this in the Last Issue:

Advice for Identifying and Discussing Hearing Loss

This brochure is directed toward family caregivers, but it is actually excellent information for many people who deal with hearing loss. It provides tips for recognizing hearing loss, explains the benefits of treating hearing loss, offers ways to talk about hearing loss and describes available resources and ways to get help. Download this brochure [here](#)



2017 HLA-WA Annual Meeting



The 2017 HLA-WA Annual Meeting was held at the Everett Library on October 28. Business at the meeting was combined with celebration of our work over the past year, including the "Like the Mic" video released at the HLA national convention in Salt Lake City in June.



From Left: Warren Weissman, President, addressed the annual meeting. Cake acknowledging the All-Stars who performed in the "Like the Mic" video. See the video [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHIDoTh5Ngk).

2017 HLAA-WA Annual Meeting, cont'd



At Left, Diana Thompson described legislative work in the 2017 session. At right, outgoing Board members Judi Carr (L) and Kimberly Parker (R) are given effusive thanks for their work by Karen Utter (center), former HLAA-WA

The Washington State Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) has an e-news and asks that if you would like to be included on their mailing list for that e-news, you contact them at ODHH@dshs.wa.gov.

Affordable Care Act - Exchange Enrollment Coming Soon



Enrollment for 2018 for coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) starts November 1 and ends December 15. The executive branch of the federal government has reduced by 90% the funds for advertising when people can enroll. Please help by getting the word out and ensuring that people who need access to ACA through the Health Care Exchange can get it. For more information about coverage in Washington State, go to the HealthPlanFinder [here](#).

Enrollment for 2018 for coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) starts November 1 and ends December 15. The executive branch of the federal government has reduced by 90% the funds available to advertise the enrollment period. Please help by getting the word out and ensuring that people who need access to ACA through the Health Care Exchange can get it. For more information about coverage in Washington State, go to the HealthPlanFinder [here](#).

Join the Hearing Loss Association of America or Renew Your Membership

Help support HLAA in Washington State by becoming a member of the national organization. Your membership dues support programs and include HLAA's bi-monthly award-winning "Hearing Loss Magazine." Join our national affiliate, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), [here](#).

Alzheimer's Town Halls

Learn about the State Alzheimer's Plan
Free

Tacoma WA – November 14, 2017, 9:30 – 11:00 am
People's Community Center
1602 MLK Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA 98405

Yakima WA – November 15, 2017 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Harman Center
101 N 65th Avenue, Yakima WA, 98908

Wenatchee WA – November 15, 2017, 5:00 – 6:30 pm
Aging & Adult Care of Central WA.
50 Simon Street SE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802

For More Information, Contact
Peter Newbould
206.529.3867, pnewbould@alz.org

See the State Alzheimer's strategic plan [here](#).



2017 SATURDAY MEETING CALENDAR

November 18 *"Treatment of Hearing Loss: Then, Now, and Tomorrow"*
David Olson, M.D., Otologist, Bellingham Ear, Nose & Throat

December 16 *Annual Christmas Potluck - Celebrating the Season Together*

The Hearing Loss Association of America Whatcom County Chapter meets at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

Contact: Charlene MacKenzie charmackenzie@comcast.net Phone: 738-3756
Mike Sweeney spikesweeney@comcast.net Phone: 734-0469

Additional programs offered to our membership in 2017:

HEARING LOSS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 28th: 9 -12 noon with Charlene MacKenzie
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham

In a personal, small group setting -- wearing hearing aids or not -- learn more about your own hearing loss and how to shop wisely for hearing devices. Bring your current audiogram. No cost but a priceless opportunity for our members, friends and the community.

November-December Hearing Accessible Events

- ◆ For updated information about **Seattle Town Hall**, see their web site [here](#). Town Hall Seattle is currently undergoing a remodeling and events are scheduled at other venues throughout the city. We're tracking down hearing access details, but no info is yet available. Please feel free to send a note of inquiry voicing your support for the loop at Town Hall and ask what kind of hearing accommodations have been put in place for the neighborhood presentations.
- ◆ All **Seattle Repertory Theatre** performances are looped. Captioned performances are offered at the first Thursday show of each production in the Bagley Wright and Leo K. Theatres. Get ticket information [here](#).
- ◆ **A Contemporary Theater (ACT)** in Seattle now offers closed captions for Mainstage performances with the Figaro MobiTxt closed captioning system. ACT is showing "The Crucible" in October and early November. Get more information [here](#).

See the Loop Washington [website](#) for more hearing accessible events.

Nov 9 - Dec 31 Disney's "Newsies," Village Theatre Issaquah, looped.

Nov 10 Renton Chapter meeting, 12:30 pm, Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave N., Renton. Amplification, FM ALDs.

Nov 10,11,12 "The Holiday Kick-Off," Anacortes Community Theatre, 918 M Ave, Anacortes, WA, looped.

Nov 11 Tacoma Chapter Meeting, 9:30 am, TACID, 6315 S 19th St, Tacoma (enter through the back door.) amplification, FM ALDs, CART.

Nov 14 Alzheimer's Town Hall. Hear about the WA State Alzheimer's Plan, 9:30 – 11:00 am, People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA 98405.

Nov 14 Seattle HLAA Local Chapter Meeting CANCELLED.

Nov 15 Alzheimer's Town Hall. Hear about the WA State Alzheimer's Plan, 3:00 – 4:30 pm, Harman Center, 101 N 65th Avenue, Yakima WA, 98908.

Nov 15 Alzheimer's Town Hall. Hear about the WA State Alzheimer's Plan, 5:00 – 6:30 pm, Aging & Adult Care of Central WA, 50 Simon Street SE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802.

Nov 15 "Antiques: A Collection or an Accumulation?" Bellevue Library Meeting Room 1, looped. Bring one antique for appraisal.

Nov 15 Seattle International Comedy Competition, Edmonds Center for the Arts, 410 4th Avenue N, Edmonds, WA, open-captioned.

Nov 16 Loggia Lectures with Rob Prufer: Nation Under God, 7-8:30 pm, Bellevue Arts Museum, 510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA, looped.

Nov 17 "Sustainable" Meaningful Movie, 7 pm, Northlake UU Church.

Nov 18 Whatcom HLAA Chapter Meeting: "Treatment of Hearing Loss: Then, Now, and Tomorrow", David Olson, M.D, Otologist, Bellingham Ear, Nose and Throat, 9:30am, Christ the Servant Church, 2600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA. Amplification, FM, CART, typewelling; loop at most meetings.

Nov 18 "The Bodyguard", 2:00 pm, Paramount Theatre, Seattle. Open-captioned. Only single seats left, infrared ALDs available at Friends of the Paramount Booth, main lobby.

Nov 19 "Handel's Messiah," Federal Way PAEC, 2:00 pm, looped.

Nov 30 "The Humans" at Seattle Repertory Theatre, 7:30 pm. Open-captioned, looped, almost sold out.

through Dec 31 Disney's "Newsies," Village Theatre Issaquah, looped.

* Local HLAA-WA Meetings share information, education, and support for people who live with or deal with hearing loss and all those who wish to better understand hearing loss. Visitors are always welcome to attend.



November calendar continued on next page

* "Looped" refers to the availability of a hearing loop. When the symbol at left is shown at a venue or event, you may turn your hearing aid to "T-coil" to use the loop.